

President's toned-down speech barracked by Euro MPs • Soviet leader demands something stronger than détente

## Reagan and Gorbachev trade 'cold war' insults

From Martin Walker in Moscow and Derek Brown in Strasbourg

President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev traded insults and calls for progress towards world peace yesterday, as the world celebrated the fortieth anniversary of VE Day.

Amid stormy scenes in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, the US President condemned Soviet expansionism in Africa, Afghanistan, and Nicaragua, while floating his much-heralded four-point plan to reduce East-West tension.

In Moscow, the Soviet leader denounced the US as "the imperialist heir to Munich"

dence building" measures, and a direct military "hotline" to defuse particular tensions.

The eye-catching headline idea is a long-standing Nato proposal before the 35-nation conference on European disarmament and security in Stockholm.

There were more shouts and booms when President Reagan called on France and Britain to maintain and modernise their nuclear deterrents. A few Socialist members left the chamber when the President defended his Star Wars research programme.

At the Kremlin, Mr Gorbachev — after describing American policy of the 1980s as the imperialist heir to the men of Munich — responded to President Reagan's speech in a passage which seemed hurriedly tacked on to an otherwise critical address.

"We firmly believe that the process of détente should be revived," he said. "This does not mean, however, a simple return to what was achieved in the 1970s. It is necessary to strive to achieve something much greater. From our point of view, détente is not the final aim of politics. It is needed, but only as a transitional stage from a world cluttered with arms to a reliable and all-embracing international security system."

There was no explanation of this grandiose phrase, no hint of detail or proposal, and only the briefest reference to the Geneva talks, as a place where "the course of events could be changed sharply if tangible success is achieved. But he went on to speak in the broadest generalities.

"The only reasonable way out today is the creation, use, and development of such international mechanisms and institutions that would make it possible to find optimum ways to combine national, state interests with those of all humanity," he said.

But this was the only dovish note in a speech that was marked by the bitterness of its historical vision, and the evident frustration he feels in making sense of the policy of the US Administration.

The main thrust of President Reagan's speech addressed by the White House as the highlight of his deeply troubled European tour — was to pin the blame for present

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Mrs Kitty Hart, who survived Auschwitz but lost 30 members of her family in the Holocaust, stands alongside ex-servicemen at yesterday's ceremony at the Hyde Park memorial to six million Jewish victims of the Nazi regime. "If there had been no victory I would not be here," she said. Picture by Garry Weiser. Dennis Barker's report, page 20.

## VE-Day homage, faith, and reconciliation



The Queen Mother pictured at yesterday's Westminster Abbey commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the victory in Europe.

By John Ezard  
THE QUEEN led British VE-Day commemoration of homage and reconciliation yesterday, as the Queen Mother, after her father, King George VI, said: "We shall have failed and the blood of our dearest will have flowed in vain if the victory which they died to win does not lead to a lasting peace founded on justice and goodwill."

Yesterday's Westminster Abbey service for all the Second World War dead "in any part of the world and from whatever country," rose at moments to the same pitch of emotion and dedication. But the difference was that it was a service of peace, not of war.

Midway through the service, the Queen Mother, the Queen's Chaplain-General, the Ven. John Robinson, asked the 2,000-strong congregation to stand for a brief prayer of thanks for the courage and devotion of the dead. The prayer was spoken to the music of Sir Arthur Bliss's "Carmenial Prelude" and the sound of the passing bells of war.

spirits of 27 million people were very near the church, waiting to be led to rest or left in anguish by what was said there.

It was a morning so sombre and sad, the lives lost or laid waste, the treasures obliterated, as the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, said.

He added: "The organized life of groups and nations continues to be a struggle to dominate — or — avoid domination."

Germany, Japan, Poland, France, Holland, and the USA.

They were welcomed at the altar by an international group of English-speaking people. New Metropolitan Anthony does not go in for any of your mild-mannered Anglican handshakes and kisses. He is a man who, for his preferred form of greeting, he gives people a vigorous hug — on both cheeks. He gave the Archbishop a hug, and the Archbishop a hug. He gave the Archbishop a hug, and the Archbishop a hug.

There were 14 members of the Royal Family, including the Queen Mother, 25 members of the Government, all the other party leaders, 13 military officers of five-star rank, 85 ambassadors, including Mr. Pöhl of the European Community, 60 trade union leaders, 600 surviving members of the Armed Forces and 17 Victoria Cross holders, including

## Strike's £24m cost cripples NUM

By Keith Harper, Labour Editor

The miners' strike cost the National Union of Mineworkers £24 million, and this crippling burden is hampering the union in its battle with the National Coal Board over a new pit closure procedure.

A meeting of the NUM executive in Sheffield today will be given an assessment of the severe financial problems facing the union, which are not only a direct result of the strike, but also because there is no end in sight to the expropriation of the union's assets.

The £24 million bill takes into account legal fees and

Leader comment, page 14; Pit closure reaction, page 2

dues, the cost of transporting pickets, and subsistence allowances for striking miners. The union is only able to operate on a week-to-week basis, on the basis of unspecified outside financial assistance.

Headquarters staff are unable to carry out many of their duties, and this affects the union's ability to monitor what the board is doing area by area on pit closures.

Anger on this issue surfaced yesterday after the board claimed that it has assured the unions that no pit will close without the opportunity of consideration under the colliery review procedure.

This assurance, in a long statement by Mr Merrick Spanton, the board's member for personnel, was immediately disputed by several union leaders.

Mr Peter McNulty, general secretary of the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shiftworkers said: "It is still being closed without consultation. It is rubbish of the NCB to claim otherwise."

The board said that it will have completed its urgent review of strike collieries by the end of June and that after that the existing review procedure will be applied.

But a board document submitted to the unions makes no mention of when the revised procedure will be introduced.

Mr McNulty said yesterday that it could be months before a new procedure is agreed by which time 20 pits could have closed.

The Nacods leader said that the board had tried to argue that only one period was required to fill the independent role envisaged in the new procedure. All the unions find this unacceptable.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Steel on BSM aid

LIBERAL MPs were asked to look out for a bill affecting the British School of Management, Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said last night. The company made a £188,000 donation to the party. Page 5.

### Green belt peril

CONSTRUCTION companies who want to build a town for 12,000 on Essex farmland yesterday defended such green belt incursions. Page 4.

### Teaching move

TEACHING unions — with the exception of the National Union of Teachers — may accept an invitation to meet Sir Keith Joseph today. Page 2.

### The weather

OCCASIONAL rain. Details, back page.

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THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE

Austria	25	4th	100
Belgium	25	1st	200
Denmark	9.00	1st	2.000
France	8.00	1st	170
Germany	3.50	1st	3

## Bill to quell rates revolt with aid for firms

By James Naughtie and Alan Travis

The Government is to rush an emergency bill through the Commons to buy off the rates rebellion among Scottish Tories by providing relief for commercial ratepayers.

The Scottish Secretary, Mr George Younger, will pave the way for the bill when he addresses his party conference in Perth today and an announcement of the legislation will be made to the Commons, probably next week.

It will provide a mechanism for rates relief costing more than £10 million — to be paid to the Scottish Office. It will be badly by the recent revaluation in Scotland. It is hoped that the promise of help will calm the anger which has rocked

the Scottish Tories for weeks. Today's debate is still likely to be a stormy affair, but Mr Younger appears to have won approval from ministerial colleagues for a scheme to offer more money to relieve the difficulties of small businesses by offering help through appeals against excessive valuations.

The key question for opposition parties in giving the bill an easy and quick passage through the Commons will be the way in which ministers have decided to find the cash. There will be strong protests if it is being taken from Scottish Office programmes.

Mr Younger's remarks today, which are likely to be general rather than specific, will be the first signal for the Government's attempts to end Tory anxiety about rates. Ministers drawing up a scheme for

reforming the system are to be carrying the load of unpopular again under Mrs Thatcher's chairmanship this month.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, told the Commons yesterday that reform options were still open. He conceded under opposition questioning that any poll tax introduced either as a replacement for rates or as an element in the system would have to be accompanied by compulsory registration of voters.

He told MPs that rating revaluation in England and Wales, last carried out in 1972, would be postponed until reform had been accomplished.

Mr Lawson said that the party structure was in drastic need of overhaul.

The group will be named the Campaign for the Communication of Conservative Policies. Mr Lawson said in an article in the Glasgow Herald: "We are loyal, hard-working Tories — fed up to the teeth watching our party miss opportunity after opportunity to reverse the drift in Scotland towards socialism."

Mr Lawson said that the party structure was in drastic need of overhaul.

## Toll rises as disease spreads

By David Rose and Dennis Johnson

Three further deaths, and two new outbreaks of Legionnaire's disease were confirmed yesterday, adding to an epidemic that is already the worst on record.

Two of the deaths were reported in Portsmouth and Bristol, where scientists and health authority officials launched an immediate programme of tests and disinfection.

In Stafford, the death of an 82-year-old woman brought the total there to 21, two more than the previous worst figure in 1977.

Four new patients were admitted to hospital, where 69 are now being treated, with the total number of cases now standing at 169. Two cases are in intensive care, with one said to be "critical" and the other "very poorly."

In Bristol, tests were being carried out after the death of a 64-year-old nurse, Mrs Anne

Chidger, who worked at the private Chesterfield hospital. She died last Thursday after treatment for pneumonia — for which Legionnaire's disease is often mistaken at the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

A spokesman for the Chesterfield Hospital, owned by the Nuffield group, said that the preliminary results of tests there were "extremely encouraging."

The local health authority added that there was no reason for the disease to spread, but that the tests were a necessary precaution.

In Portsmouth, seven wards and three operating theatres have been closed at St Mary's Hospital as a result of two cases, one fatal, where patients had been admitted during the past month and found to have contracted the disease during their stay.

According to a spokesman, the local health authority demanded "the full-scale disinfection" of the blocks where the two patients had stayed and of the operating theatres which shared the same water supply. An air-con-

ditioning unit had been checked last summer but would now be checked again.

The closure of the wards means that 120 patients will have to be moved, and both St Mary's and the other Portsmouth general hospital, Queen Alexandra's, will be dealing with emergency cases only until the disinfection is complete next week.

The spokesman said that the Stafford cases were "of course in our minds" but the precautions would have been taken in any case.

Mr Frank Dobson, the Labour health spokesman, said last night that the new outbreaks indicated his demand for health authorities to tell hospitals to check their water supplies.

He attacked Mr Kenneth Clarke, Health and Social Security Secretary, for claiming that it took time for letters to be typed and posted. Mr Clarke had been quite prepared to use a telex for an instruction not to cancel private contracts, he added.

## Snub for Olympics

By Alan Travis

Mr Neil McFarlane, the sports minister, told the Commons yesterday that taxpayers' money would not be available for any project to hold the 1992 Olympic Games in Britain.

He rejected a request from Labour's sports spokesman, Mr Denis Howell, for the Government to fund feasibility studies into the project and provide money for any city to host the Games. Mr Howell had warned that bids already made by London, Manchester, and Birmingham might not be taken seriously without the right financial backing.

Mr McFarlane said it was up to the British Olympic Association to decide whose bid to support, and to undertake its own feasibility studies. He agreed with backbench Conservative MPs that the Olympics should not be held in Britain at the taxpayers' expense.



## You don't have to be out of work to be poor

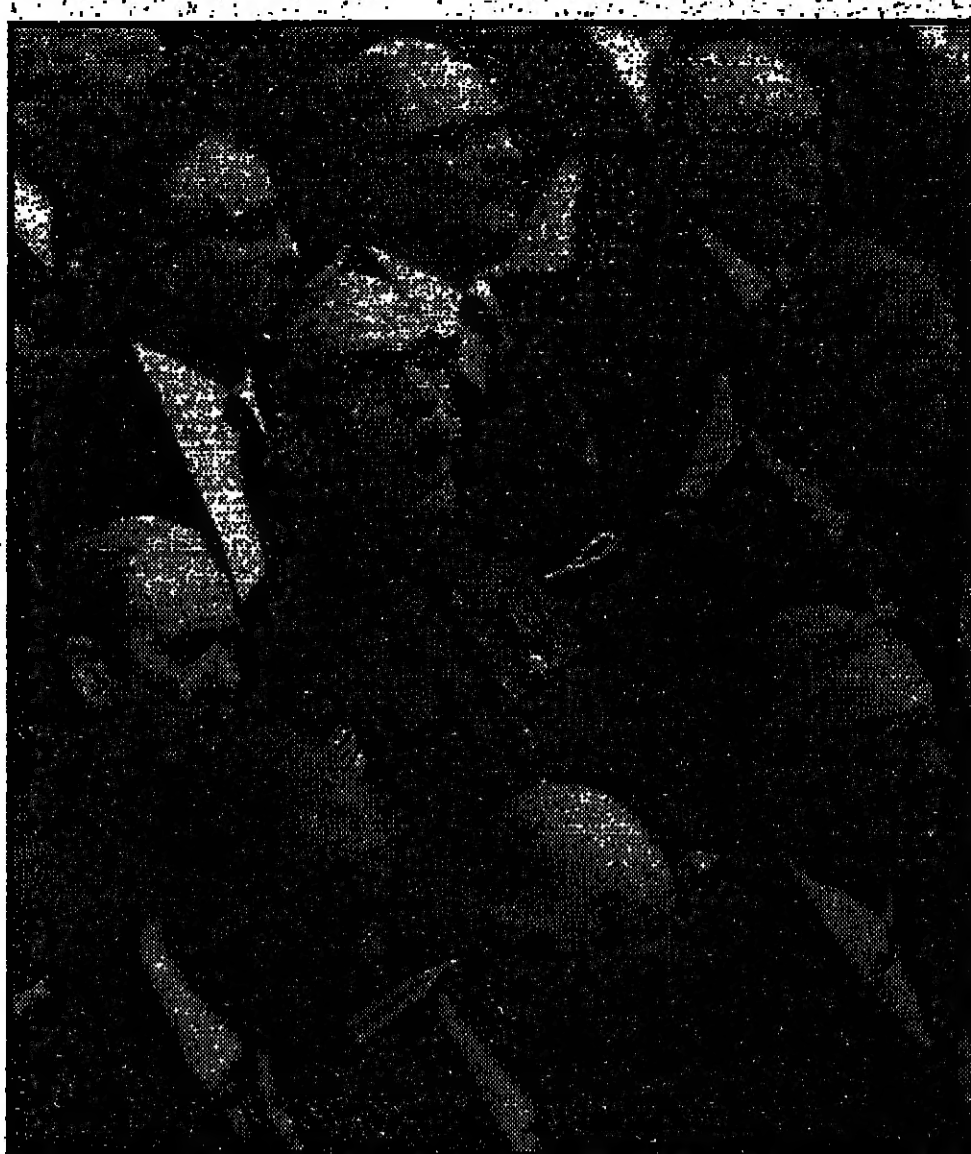
The best available evidence suggests that in Britain today, one school-child in six meets the very stringent conditions required to make them officially poor. But far from being the children of reckless scoundrels, the majority have low paid but working parents caught in the trap between the shrinking value of child benefits and increasing family taxation. Have families with children taken over from the elderly and become the most vulnerable section of our society? Read a special feature on child poverty in this week's TES.

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From left: War widows lay a wreath at the Cenotaph. An old soldier gives voice in the Abbey. Children from the London embassies (top right). Princess Margaret outside Westminster Abbey. Mr Gorbachev at the Kremlin

## Jews think of 6m who died in the Holocaust

Dennis Barker with some who reached a pleasant land

AMID the ordinariness of the public notices in Hyde Park — No cycling. No roller skating at weekends — hundreds of Jewish people at a service of thanksgiving yesterday remembered the Holocaust of six million Jews which ended with VE-day.

In the most emotional of the open air remembrances of victory in London yesterday they gathered around the Holocaust memorial — a pile of rock tucked away in trees by the Serpentine — to remember their brothers and sisters who could not join the 60,000 who reached the Serpentine, the oak trees, and Kotten Row.

The park workers, both black and white, helping to erect the memorial were a sign of how 40 years have helped to bury the racial monstrosities of the Nazis. But ageing Jews at the service said they would never forget what had happened to those in Nazi-occupied Europe.

Mr Wolfe Sherr, a retired watch shop manager, remembered going into Belson concentration camp 40 years ago as a member of the Jewish Relief Agency.

"I worked with youngsters of 15 to 18 in the camp, and we were able to create a good school there," he remembered. "They had to steal things to survive, and some continued to steal afterwards until they learned that they did not need to in order to survive."

"That people should be subjected to such debasement is something you cannot forget. That smell of Belson, I shall always remember that disorienting smell."

A few remembered the occasional happiness that emerged from the misery. Mr Norman Turgel, a sergeant in the Intelligence Corps when he went into Belson, met a starving Jewish prisoner called Gina. "I believe in fate, I believe we were fated to meet," said Mr Turgel. He and his wife, the same Gina, have three grown-up children.

Even Mrs Kitty Hart, one of the many who laid wreaths on the memorial, managed to smile, though 30 members of her family died in the Holocaust and she was a prisoner in Auschwitz at the age of 15. "It is marvellous to be here 40 years on," she said. "If there had been no victory, I would not be here."

The words in the service, conducted by the Chief Rabbi, Sir Immanuel Jakobovits, were often emotional.

"We shall not forget Auschwitz, or Belsen, or Dachau, or Mathausen, or the ghettos of Warsaw or Lodz in Budapest, or any other camp or place where our people died," said Mr Grenville Janner, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and of the World Jewish Congress, in his address. "We shall not forget, because in the words of our sage, the Baal Shem Tov, forgetfulness is the source of evil, but remembrance is the secret of redemption."

A bearded, blind Jew sitting alone on a park bench expressed his feelings even more emotionally. "I am anonymous in my blindness, and let me be anonymous to you. But I remember with

red roses at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. They campaigned at the same time for improved pensions for those widowed by the war."

There were two ceremonies. The widows, divided by the pensions dispute, stood in two groups, and neither acknowledged the other.

One group said they were angry that pleas for increased pensions seemed to have been ignored by the Government, while the others were angry that their militant colleagues had "so little dignity."

Mrs Iris Strange, president of War Widows and Associates, said: "Mrs Thatcher said that war widows would be treated as well as more recent widows. But politicians tend to make promises when they are out of office, and forget them when they are in."

In a letter to Mrs Thatcher, made public yesterday, Mrs Strange accused her government of bragging about what her government had done for them, and told her: "You have nothing about which to brag concerning war widows. The hope that your promise raised for them went unfulfilled. You betrayed them. Are you waiting a few more years to that none of us will be left?"

Mr Alf Morris, former Labour minister for the disabled, who helped Mrs Strange lay a large wreath at the Cenotaph, said: "The Government have cut the total amount of war widows' pension by 4 per cent in the last five years. This ceremony is a brief interlude in a winter of cold."

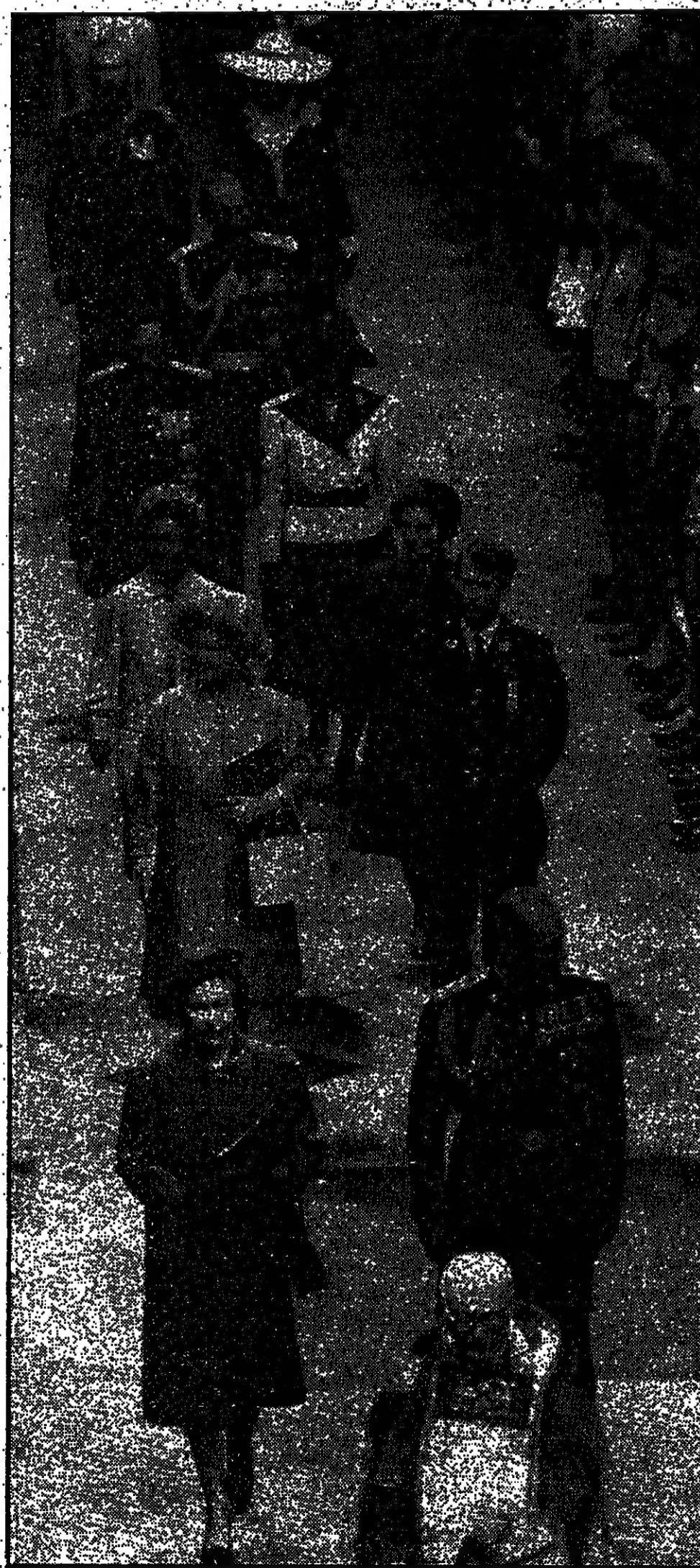
LABOUR MPs have protested to Mr Norman Fowler, the social services secretary, over...denials...of unemployment benefit to second world war veterans who wanted to attend VE-Day celebrations in France.

Dr Donah McDermott, MP for Thurrock, has written to Mr Fowler on behalf of ex-servicemen of Chadwell and Great British Legion who had planned to travel to France for yesterday's celebrations.

But the Department of Health and Social Security has ruled that ex-gratia payments would only be made to the unemployed when they went abroad on compassionate grounds to enable people to participate in official events which commemorated relatives or comrades who died in action.

Every breath I draw not only the six million Jews who were killed, but also the six million Gypsies and Mongolians. We must never forget others who were killed. With every breath I draw I think that if I hadn't been in this green and pleasant land I would not be here today."

Elsewhere yesterday British war widows laid posies of



The Royal party in the nave of Westminster Abbey and, below, three ex-seamen at the Tower Hill Merchant Navy service. Pictures by Garry Weaser, E. Hamilton-West and agencies



## Germans told to reflect on past

Anna Tomforde on soul-searching remembrance of Nazism's collapse

WEST Germany yesterday remembered the collapse of Nazi dictatorship 40 years ago with a special session of parliament followed by a solemn service of commemoration last night in Cologne Cathedral.

In a moving speech to both houses of parliament — a ceremony first suggested by the opposition Social Democrats rather than by Chancellor Kohl's government — the federal president, Mr Richard von Weizsäcker, told Germans to reflect in silence their individual involvement during the 12 years of dictatorship.

He said May 8, 1945, had unequivocally been a day of liberation, and warned his countrymen not to place the blame for post-war German division on any one else but Hitler. "We must not separate May 8, 1945, from January 30, 1933."

Later, political leaders and representatives from different walks of life attended an emotional service of commemoration in Cologne Cathedral which, though damaged, was one of the few buildings which still stood amid devastation at the end of the war.

At the service, suggested by Chancellor Kohl as an event of quiet reflection, the head of the Catholic church in Germany, Cardinal Josef Höffner, said that many had not learnt the lessons of history.

"Deep mistrust and fear of each other divides the two power blocs. The arms race goes on and on. War, oppression, dictatorship, torture, labour camps, exploitation and starvation of women and children still exist today."

The cardinal also denounced the Catholic church's controversial supportive role under Nazism. "Many Germans, also from our ranks, have let themselves be tempted by the advocates of National Socialist ideology, remained indifferent to the crimes against human freedom and human dignity. Many became accomplices to crime and many became criminals themselves."

The theme of individual rather than collective guilt, also ran on through Mr von Weizsäcker's speech. In the Bundestag, where Jewish leaders, the trade unions, constitutional judges, soldiers, ambassadors and young people listened from the flower-decorated gallery.

How was it that we remained indifferent to the burning synagogues, the looting, the deportation of the Jews...? Whoever opened his eyes and ears, who wanted to find out what was going on, could not fail to see that the deportation trains were rolling."

The president was a junior officer in the Wehrmacht and as a lawyer defended his own father — von Ribbentrop's state secretary — at the Nuremberg trials. He said that too many people, including from his own generation, had tried not to realise what was happening.

Guilt, like innocence, can never be collective, it is individual, the 66-year-old president said. He appealed to the young, who could not be expected "to wear hair shirts, merely because they were Germans" never to forget the past because that would make them blind for the present.

"The young are not responsible for what happened. But they are responsible for how it is interpreted by history."

His powerful presentation of history meant today was not heard by Mrs Gorbachev, who visited the Green Party, who denied to

stay away from the "non-committal" ceremony, and chose to visit the Auschwitz death camp instead.

The Greens have criticised the government for wanting to play down Nazi crimes and forget the past.

There were also protests against the presence as a guest of honour of Mr Hunt Fillingim, who resigned as Christian Democrat state prime minister in Baden-Wuerttemberg in 1973 following the revelation that, as a Nazi naval judge, he sentenced a young sailor to death for desertion.

Mr von Weizsäcker expressing the hope that May 8, 1945, would not remain the last day in German history that had a common meaning to all Germans, also stated that the division of Germany would not have occurred if Hitler had not started the war.

Seeking to correct another frequent misconception of history, the president stressed that while the Hit-



Richard von Weizsäcker — "day of liberation"

ler-Stalin pact had led to war, the blame lay exclusively with the Germans.

"This does not minimise the Germans' guilt for the outbreak of war. The initiative for war came from Germany, and not from the Soviet Union," he declared.

"Let us face the truth as squarely as we can," Mr von Weizsäcker concluded. He appealed to the young generation to be tolerant towards others, Russians or Americans, Jews or Turks, political alternatives or Conservatives, black or white."

Although yesterday was not a public holiday as in East Germany, schoolchildren were given special classes on the war, including film shows, concentration camp visits and excursions to Allied war cemeteries in neighbouring countries.

In a rare display of Allied four-power rights in Berlin, senior Soviet military and political representatives came in bus loads to lay a wreath at the Soviet war memorial in West Berlin, a few hundred yards from the Reichstag and the Brandenburg Gate that divides the City.

In East Berlin, the Communist leader, Mr Erich Honecker, himself imprisoned for 11 years by the Nazis, paid tribute at the Treptow memorial for 5,000 of the 20,000 Soviet troops who died in the battle for Berlin.

The Western Allies chose to boycott the East German ceremonies which are held during the Foreigners Liberation from Fascism and the Triumph of Communism over Capitalism.

"They said they feared their attendance could be exploited for propaganda which, in their view, understated the role of Moscow's allies in defeating Hitler."

## Princess delights loyalists with 'most normal' visit

Paul Johnson points out Ulster's odd stance in war

NORTHERN Ireland was officially tied in with the VE-Day anniversary celebration yesterday with a visit by Princess Anne. The two-day visit was said to be the most normal undertaken by a member of the royal family since the start of the troubles 16 years ago.

Despite that, security was elaborate — the Princess's red helicopter was shadowed by three security force planes as she was ferried from event to event — and it was said that the planning for the visit had provided headaches for the chief constable.

Princess Anne visited a school in north Belfast to open an extension, a farm in the south of the city sponsored by the Save the Children Fund, of which she is

president, and then travelled to the County Down fishing village of Portavogie, where she opened a new £5 million harbour.

In a 15-minute walkabout the Princess, surrounded by crowds, armed to the teeth with Union flags, looked in on a stamp factory and toured a trawler called the *Willing Lad*.

Last night she was due to attend a VE-Day service at St Ann's Cathedral in Belfast city centre.

Loyalists are particularly pleased that the visit is happening now, during the run-up to the local government election, because it serves to emphasise the union.

Northern Ireland was in a curious position during the Second World War, with conscription never introduced,

Churchill once told the House of Commons that it would be "more trouble than it is worth to enforce such a policy."

There is occasional bitterness from loyalists over the neutral role adopted by Eire during the war. Yesterday's visit of the Irish Times noted the anniversary with an eight-page supplement entitled *The Emergency — Ireland During the Years 1939 to 1945*.

The curious fact is that more men from Eire joined the armed forces than from Northern Ireland. The most reliable statistics show that 37,382 came from the north to join the United Kingdom forces while 42,565 enlisted from Eire. Eight Victoria Crosses and a George Cross were awarded to Irishmen from the 26 counties.



Builders consider six more sites around the capital

## Threat to build town on London green belt farms

By Geoff Andrews, Local Government Correspondent

Plans for a new town on farmland in the London green belt for 12,000 people will be followed by up to six more around the capital, the developers said yesterday.

The Development Consortium, a group of 10 of the largest housebuilding companies in the country, disclosed details of plans for the first town at West Horndon, Essex, on a 760-acre farm, between Basildon, Brentwood, Upminster and Grays. It made a formal planning application to Thurrock Council, which opposes the proposal.

The companies refused to give the locations of the others but confirmed that planning permission would be sought for two within the next year. It is thought that at least one of these is also on a green belt site.

The first new town, to be called Tillingham Hall after the farm it will overwhelm, is the first significant manifestation of planning pressure on the green belt springing from the 1925 London orbital motorway, four miles to the west.

The developers claim that while they regard the motorway as a boon they do not want to build a middle-class dormitory for commuters. They believe that they have the only solution to growing pressures on housing land in the South-east, where 40 per cent of the price of a new home is accounted for in the land value.

Mr David Lock, the consortium's project manager, said that the site was a flat featureless field used for growing wheat and rape which was probably going into Common Market intervention stocks. This was an exceptional case which warranted breaking green belt rules.

"The green belt is an extraordinary planning achievement but it has been spread like a blanket around London and used as a defence mechanism by people living in great style in the countryside while people in London live in appalling conditions," he said. Asked if this meant that the new town was planned for sale to such people, he said: "It is not impossible."

The West Horndon site will be beside a village with an industrial estate, a steel yard and station. It is owned by two farmers and crossed by four footpaths, a high tension power supply and an underground oil pipeline from Canvey Island to Liverpool.

It is flat and prone to flooding with a number of water-courses which would have to be diverted through "nutrient sinks" to launder the drainage water of fertiliser run off. The land would be surrounded by earth banks planted with trees to protect it from wind.

The planners are convinced that they can make the town a balanced community with a shopping centre, schools and health centre. There would be council houses and sheltered housing if the local authority agreed and they would like the town to have a parish council.

Under his enthusiastic guidance there was a rapid increase in members, who were communicants, and associates, who were potential communicants.

Between 1904 and 1914 total membership rose from 1,700 to more than 130,000, with branches expanding into the dominions and colonies. The heady days preceding the first world war saw a vast range of social and religious activities. There were missions for temperance, purity, and anti-smoking in Leeds; sub-committees on church mission and the White Slave Traffic Bill in Bristol, where mission services were held in an inebriate house.

More than 150 new branches were established in the first year of the war and membership rose above 133,000.

"When the war was over multitudes of our keenest men had been killed," wrote Archbishop Lang. Others had been sent to the front, and the church was left with a terrible loss of leadership.

Revival beckoned in the 1920s but by the 1930s the society was following the country in disorganising authority, with less than half its branches fitting their annual reports or paying subscriptions on time.

Today its army branches have almost disappeared, although membership remains strong in prisons, where fees are waived during sentence in apparent hopes of honest contributions later.

A time to die was born and a time to die was available from CEMS, 18 Hertford Street, Coventry CV1 1LF. £2.50.

As a result, the nephew and other members of the commander's family will not benefit from his will until after the death of the widow, now 62. She shot her husband in September 1982 and was sentenced to two years' probation at Lewes crown court after admitting manslaughter.

Lord Justice Ackner, sitting with Lords Justices Griffiths and Browne-Wilkinson, said that the new act gave the courts jurisdiction to modify the effect of the well-established public policy rule preventing any benefit to a person guilty of another's death.

## Musician takes up his trombone and walks

By Paul Heyland, Welsh Correspondent

POLICE in Cardiff were yesterday investigating the disappearance of a trombonist from the East German Berlin Symphony Orchestra, who deserted the brass section in the middle of a concert in the Welsh capital.

He is 31 years old, and would have stood out from the crowd as he strode from the stage with his trombone and case, but the police have been unable to trace his movements. It is thought that Mr Wilfried Helm, aged 22, may have fled to West Germany in a carefully planned defection.

The Home Office said that it did not know where he was, and the Welsh police said they were treating him as a missing person.

The trombonist vanished from the dressing rooms on Tuesday night shortly before he was due to take the stage for the second half of a concert. He had not been needed in the first half, and the interval was extended by 10 minutes as East German security men searched for him.

Mr Helm, who was last seen wearing a white shirt, grey trousers, black shoes, and a blue check jacket, is thought to speak little English, and is not known to have friends in Britain.

The orchestra was due to end its British tour with concerts in Swansea last night and Llandudno tonight, and the tour manager, Mr Norman McCann, said: "Wilfried will probably be in West Germany. He told me one of his plans, but in East Germany, where you face seven years for attempting to defect, you don't even tell your family of your plans."

"Nobody in the orchestra knew what was happening, and it seems as though he planned his getaway. His girlfriend, who is in the orchestra, is distraught." She is Ines Gulle, a flautist.

Mr McCann, who specialises in bringing Iron Curtain orchestras to Britain, said it appeared that East German security officials believed the musician had defected. Most of his clothes were still in his hotel bedroom.

The West German embassy in London said it would welcome Mr Helm. He has not contacted us so far, but if he wishes we can make arrangements for him to travel to West Berlin. The musician's visa expires tomorrow, and the Home Office said he would be interviewed by immigration officials, if he applied to stay in Britain.

One of Mr Helm's colleagues said: "Quite a few of the orchestra members are hoping that he will get away with it. He is an excellent musician, and should be able to walk into any top orchestra."

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Mountain death still mystery

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A MAN'S HOME... Mr Tom O'Neill and the castle he is trying to sell in County Armagh. Gosford Castle, started in 1819 and completed 20 years later at a cost of £200,000, was the first building in Norman Revival style in the British Isles. It could be sold for as little as £500,000, though it would cost an estimated £36 million to build today.

## Tests on house dust reveal plutonium levels 6,000 times higher in homes at Sellafield

By Anthony Tucker, Science Correspondent

Levels of plutonium and americium in house dust in the Sellafield area are 6,000 times higher than in the rest of the country, according to a report from the National Radiological Protection Board.

But the study published today says that the additional average radiation dose accumulated by residents is so small that it can be regarded as insignificant.

The report is the first of several initiated by the Black Commission after the investigation of an unexpected high incidence of childhood leukaemia in the Sellafield area. It is based on an analysis of house dust from 20 homes in Gosforth, St. Bees, Seascale, and Ravenglass and on samples collected from comparable houses in the region around the Sellafield headquarters.

The dust was collected in specially designed vacuum cleaners during routine cleaning in the houses. The board's figures are lower than those obtained during an earlier study by Manchester University's department of chemistry. The discrepancies could be attributed to changes in the weather or in sampling techniques but in any case variations in levels of radioactivity exist in samples from the same house, the explanation being that a single radioactive particle can make a large difference in measurement at low levels.

The report acknowledges uncertainties and points out that seasonal variations are the subject of a separate study by Imperial College.

Apart from the long-lived alpha-emitting actinides—plutonium etc.—regarded as the main source of additional radiation through absorption after eating or breathing the active particles, the report also shows that Sellafield's levels of caesium are 25 times those in Berkshire and Oxfordshire.

A comparison of the values of the caesium isotopes shows that the average age of the caesium in soil and dust around Sellafield is four or five years. This confirms that it comes from the reprocessing plant.

When taken together however, the total additional radiation dose to the most seriously affected residents is calculated as being less than 1/50th of that from naturally occurring radiation, putting it at a level regarded as insignificant.

The study makes a special analysis of childhood exposure through the accidental eating of dust and soil and finds that even in the most extreme case the total dose would still be very small. But it fails to discuss the exposure to incorporated or external radiation of the embryo or developing foetus and it is in this phase of development that is accepted as the most sensitive to damage. In such cases, even a small increment of radiation may be important.

Wife keeps wealth of husband she killed

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## In praise of pupils

By Martin Wainwright

BRITAIN'S schoolchildren have been given a vote of confidence in a hymn book which will be launched today by a massed choir. Praise and Thanksgiving restores several famous texts edited out of a previous edition on the grounds that their theology was too complex for young people.

Mr Robert Gower, editor of the book and head of master at Radley College, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, where it will be launched, said: "The borderline between comprehension and a good sing is a fine one. If the boys and girls enjoy the hymns they may take an interest and find inspiration in the texts."

This philosophy has led to the return of "At the Name of Jesus" and four hymns by Charles Wesley, the great poet of Methodism. However, most of the 77 hymns in Praise and Thanksgiving are modern, with a large number of specially-commissioned new texts.

The book was commissioned by the Independent Schools' Headmasters' Conference which produced the Public Schools' Hymn Book in 1963 and adapted it, omitting the theologically complex hymns, in 1964.

Praise and Thanksgiving is published by Gresham Press, PO Box 61, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon. £3.95 and £1.95.

Warning of M1 delays

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## Report claims 1,000 held without going to court

By Aileen Ballantyne

More than 1,000 people are imprisoned in England and Wales every year without appearing in court, a report claims today.

The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants and the Prison Reform Trust say that they are detained under powers given to the Home Office by the 1971 Immigration Act.

The report notes that in some cases immigration prisoners can be held in goal for lengthy periods before deportation, once they are imprisoned as illegal overstayers.

One case detailed in the report is that of a 39-year-old Nigerian man who spent nearly a year in Pentonville prison, London, as a result of a decision by a civil servant in the Home Office immigration department.

Mr J. was an illegal overstayer who was picked up by police after he had been in this country for about five years, and had been receiving a course of treatment for a serious knee injury. Before he was sent back to Nigeria he wanted to have a final consultation with a specialist about his injury, which caused him to limp badly.

His appeal on this matter to the Home Secretary took eight months, during which time he was held at Pentonville. He then gave up hope of being allowed to see his consultant, and agreed to go home.

The JCWI says that after a further four months, with Mr J. still in Pentonville, the Home Office still had not arranged his deportation. Eventually

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## Another women's group guilty of race bias

By a Correspondent

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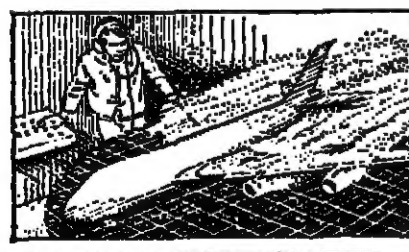
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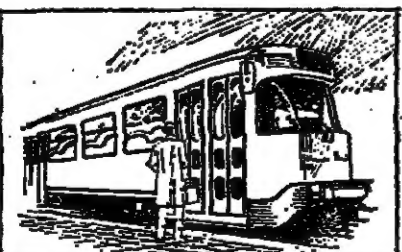
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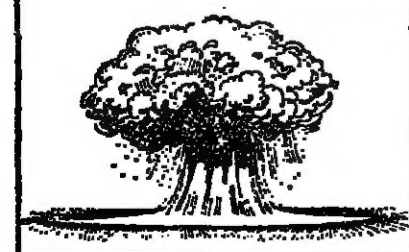
## Turbulence. Transport. Fallout. Third World.



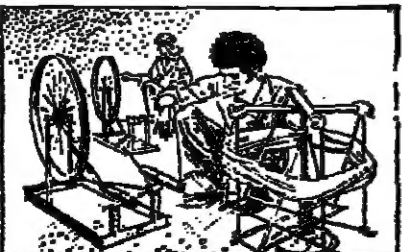
THE TECHNOLOGY OF TURBULENCE Flapping flags, the flow of water from a tap and the flight of Concorde are all explained.



FRENCH TRANSPORT STEPS AHEAD The train is rediscovered, more automated trains are running, and a car is built that almost dislikes petrol.



FALLOUT REACHES NEW HEIGHTS Now scientists must look again at their understanding of the long-term effects of nuclear war.



APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY GOES TO MARKET Appropriate technology now needs to learn a few marketing tricks from big business.

newscientist required reading every Thursday.

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## New defeat on GLC abolition bill looms

By Colin Brown

The Government is facing the possibility of another embarrassing defeat today in the House of Lords on the committee stage of the Local Government Bill to abolish the Greater London Council and the six metropolitan county councils.

An all-party clause in which the Conservative backbench peer, the Earl of Cranbrook, has played a leading part, is gathering substantial support and could lead to a further defeat for government ministers. It proposes to set up an independent authority for the London area to control waste disposal.

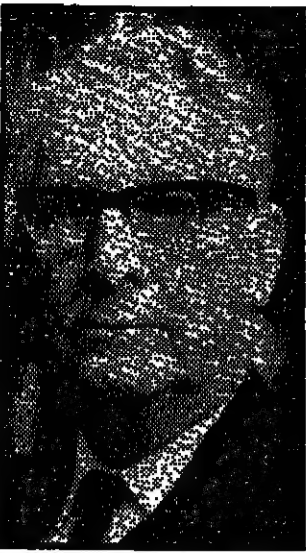
Although apparently innocuous, it is an important second stage in the strategy of the opponents of the bill to ensure that the existing authorities are replaced with elected bodies for London and the counties.

On Tuesday, the Government suffered two defeats on the bill. The first, by a majority of 17 against the government, gave further protection for the environment, and the second, by a majority of 14, established an independent highways authority for London and the counties.

The bill's opponents hope to invest the independent body with a wide range of powers as well as highways and waste disposal. They also hope to ensure that it is elected. The Government believes that such a development would create the "monster" of the GLC as a second-generation body.

The Government's chief whip in the Lords, Lord Denham, is urgently mustering Tory support in a bid to defeat the all-party move today. But he is at a disadvantage, having already used a powerful three-line whip last week to avoid an even more embarrassing government defeat by four votes.

He said yesterday in an interview with the BBC wireless programme, the World At One, "Like the opposition, I send out the whip at the beginning of each week suggesting the days on which we should particularly like our supporters to come up. I shall be sending out a fairly strongly worded one — as they (the opponents) will."



Lord Cranbrook—leading light in all-party clause

But it is understood he will not send out a supplementary whip this week that is done only in exceptional circumstances. Instead, today is likely to mean a busy day on the telephone for the junior whips. It is understood that two Tory peers, Lord Molesey and Lord Plummer, the former Tory GLC leader, voted against the Government on Tuesday. But Lord Denham and the leader of the House, Viscount Whitelaw, are taking a philosophical view about the defeat; Lord Whitelaw is expected to tell the Cabinet that the Lords is a revising chamber and the Government must expect to be defeated on occasion.

The Government face the dilemma of whether or not to reverse the Lords defeat by using its majority in the House of Commons. The Opposition firmly believe that if they are successful in demanding an elected, city-wide authority for London, the Government will offer a compromise of a strategic authority, with members nominated by the boroughs. That would be unacceptable to Labour but would buy off the Tories and some of the crossbenchers. Labour also have their difficulties: their supporters tend to live in the suburbs where public transport is poor, thus leading to a late-night exodus from the Lords.

## Powell backers on new tack

By our Political Staff

Supporters of Mr Enoch Powell's bill to ban research on human embryos are expected to put pressure on the Government to include their proposals in government legislation.

The supporters now admit that the bill stands little chance of reaching the statute book without government time and have decided to concentrate on trying to force the Government to include the ban on embryo research in its forthcoming bill on the Warnock committee recommendations.

Such a move would outrage opponents of the bill. But Mr Powell's supporters will argue that they have demonstrated they can secure majority support in the Commons including a number of Cabinet ministers.

Pressure is now being exerted on the Leader of the House, Mr John Biffen, who personally supports the bill, to provide government time for it. But this was ruled out this week by the Prime Minister on the grounds that it would mean a break with Commons practice.

The Warnock committee came down against the measures proposed by Mr Powell.

## Liberals in row over BSM cash and blocked bill on L-driving

### PARTY FUNDS

By James Naughtie  
THE Liberal Leader, Mr David Steel, admitted last night that the head of a company which made the £188,000 donation to his party had asked Liberal MPs "to look out for" a Commons bill affecting his business interests which was subsequently blocked.

Mr Steel told journalists at Westminster that there had been nothing improper in the request, from Mr Anthony Jacobs, of the British School of Motoring, who has long been a Liberal activist and recently co-treasurer of the party.

His remarks followed a Commons row in which Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Workington,

asked the Speaker for an inquiry and claimed that Liberal MPs had objected to a bill brought in by a Conservative MP on standards for driving instructors because of the donation.

He told MPs: "Mr Jacobs has effectively bought the Alliance." Mr Campbell-Savours said the bill had been objected to three times in the Commons by Liberal MPs, and in the Lords Lord Tordoff, the Liberal chief whip, had introduced an amendment.

Mr Campbell-Savours argued, to Labour and Tory cheers, that all Alliance MPs should have declared an interest because of the donation to the Liberals by Mr Jacobs in 1983 — the largest single donation from a company to a British political party. "Not one of them had the decency to declare it to

the House," Mr Campbell-Savours said. Liberal MPs were infuriated by his attack, which was repudiated by Mr Alan Beith, the Liberal chief whip, who said Lord Tordoff's amendment in the Lords had been supported by Labour.

Later, Mr Steel admitted that Mr Jacobs had asked the Liberals to look out for the bill but said that the Tordoff amendment had been an attempt to strengthen it, not to weaken it. The bill in question was introduced by Mrs Elizabeth Peacock, Tory MP for Batley and Spen, and concerned standards for driving instructors.

Mr Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, said he had received a letter from a driving school which claimed "that BSM has extremely low standards of tuition." He

said he gathered that the Liberals had been doing their best to stop tightening up standards. This was greeted with angry protests from the Liberal benches.

The Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherall, told Mr Campbell-Savours that the point was not one on which he could rule. He made a distinction between the pecuniary interest of an individual MP, which had to be declared, and the question of donations to political parties.

Mrs Peacock's bill, which sets new minimum standards for driving instructors, was eventually passed, but she said last night that the attempted amendment in the Lords could have stopped it.

The bill, as far as it could see it, was 99.9 per cent non-controversial. Then for no good reason that I could find it was blocked.

Mrs Peacock: "No reason"

## Johnson Matthey details in bank's annual report

### BANKING

The Governor of the Bank of England is to include in his annual report to the Chancellor an account of events surrounding the collapse of the London merchant bank, Johnson Matthey, and the subsequent rescue operation, Treasury

ministers announced yesterday.

Mr Ian Stewart, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said in a written reply to a series of questions from Mr Tony Blair (Lab, Sedgefield) yesterday that he had nothing further to add to his previous statement.

Mr Blair had asked what action the Bank of England took

prior to the collapse of Johnson Matthey last October in line with its duty to supervise the banking system.

He also asked Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, whether any current review of banking supervision could deal with the monitoring by the Bank of England of JMB prior to its collapse and what steps had been taken before the collapse to identify and seek to

correct the bank's difficulties.

On Tuesday, the Speaker of the Commons strongly rebuked the Treasury after it had attempted last week to withdraw parliamentary answers which had confirmed that there had been departures from normal banking practices during the collapse of Johnson Matthey. Mr Blair had described the JMB affair as "the first steps already inadvertently con-

in a financial Watergate." He added: "I believed there has been a 'cover-up'."

The Government is still refusing to publish the full report into the affair by Price Waterhouse, commissioned by the Bank of England, which is believed to detail the departures from the normal banking practices that the Treasury has already inadvertently con-

# Because to make work some software you think have to

### LABOUR

## Silkin peace appeal

By our Political Staff

The former Labour minister, Mr John Silkin, who is facing selection difficulties with his Deptford constituency party last night issued a direct appeal for peace to break out in his party.

Mr Silkin said he was convinced that one of the reasons for the growth of a myth within the party that Labour governments were bad was that many people, comparatively new members, did not



Mr Silkin

realise that the last Labour Government had been in a minority.

He said: "Our party should be one where people of democratic socialist convictions can meet together on an equal basis in an atmosphere of true comradeship irrespective of sex, colour or creed."

Mr Silkin warned against putting women, blacks, the young, or pensioners, into separate compartments and he urged the party locally to re-establish contact with older members.

Mr Silkin is fighting to obtain the lists of all the members of his constituency party from the branches, some of whom have been holding out. Last night he said he was pleased that only one, Pepys branch, had not invited him to speak at their meetings.

### DRINKING

## Pub hours reform call

A BILL to permit longer and more flexible pub opening hours in England and Wales was given an unopposed first reading in the Commons yesterday, but because of shortage of time stands little chance of becoming law.

Mr Roger Gale (C, Thanet N), introducing his Licensing (Amendment) Bill, said licences would be allowed to open with the consent of the

justices for any 12 of the 14 hours between 10 am and midnight.

Condemning the present laws as "antiquated wartime measures" he denied that longer opening hours would lead to more alcoholism. "I am convinced, both from my own observations and the research of those more experienced and qualified than I, that the solution to the afflictions of alcoholism and problem drinking will come not from the enforcement of quaint licensing regulations, which are both inconsistent and abused, but from education."

Mr Gale insisted that sensible drinking skills were more likely to be acquired in the controlled atmosphere of a pub than from drinking sessions encouraged by "truncated opening hours, topped-up with alcohol bought at virtually any time from off-licences and supermarkets."

His bill would allow licences to close for the hours and days when they felt there was insufficient trade to justify opening.

### LIABILITY LAW

## No hope of change

THE Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, yesterday held out no hope of new legislation to improve the laws of liability to give a fairer deal for victims of personal injury.

He was responding to a call in the Lords by Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, who said present legislation was "riddled with inconsistencies and injustices."

The Lord Chancellor said he had "given up all hope of removing inconsistencies." We had to live both with the tort system and the system of setting compensation, and mobility and disability allowances for a very long time, in what was a complex and agonising subject, he said.

But over the last six years there had been improvements in monetary compensation. There is a very real advance, amounting to not less than £150 million in the annual expenditure on monetary compensation. We have never had a coherent policy," he said.

Lord Denning had urged the Law Commission to draft a Bill updating the law and putting into effect the Pearson Royal Commission's main 1978 recommendations for improvements.

He explained that judges were often faced with an impossible task in trying to assess damages in road accident cases, they could not forecast how long a person now suffering a "living death" was going to live.

Calling for a "no-fault" liability in accident cases, Lord Denning said damages could easily be paid for a penny on a gallon of petrol.

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by developing the definitive spreadsheet, which has led the market for over two years. And Lotus Symphony<sup>TM</sup> was developed to go even further in meeting your needs with a package that not only allows you to run your entire office on one program, but will grow with you as your office system develops.

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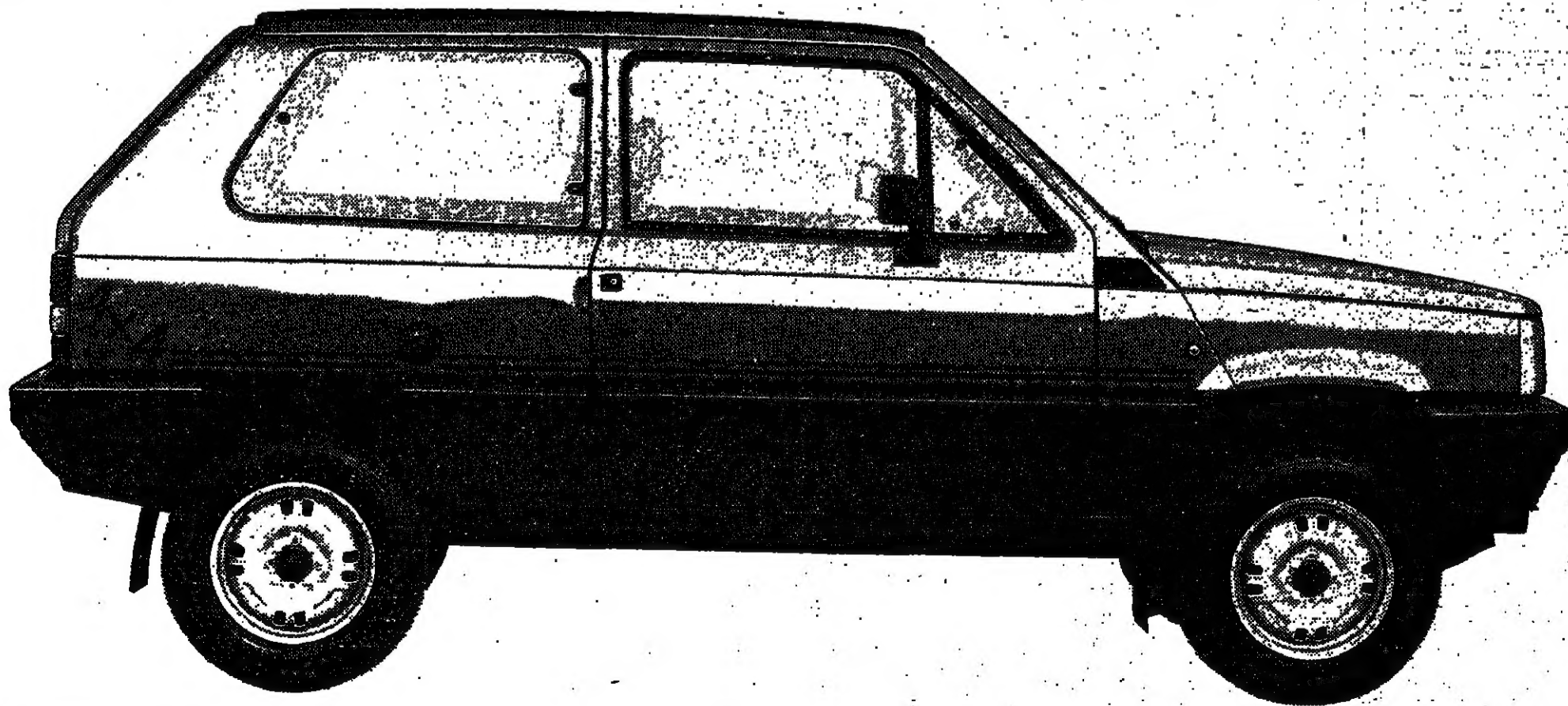
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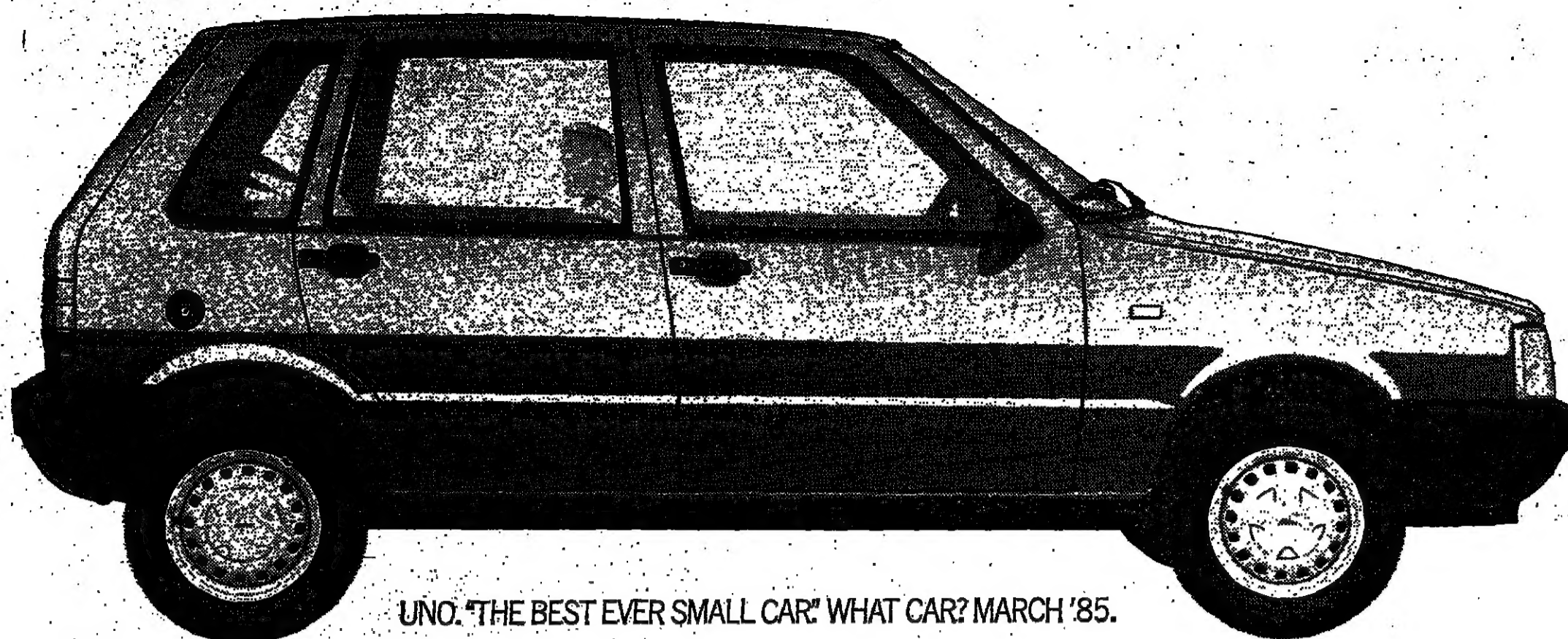
## SO WE DON'T.



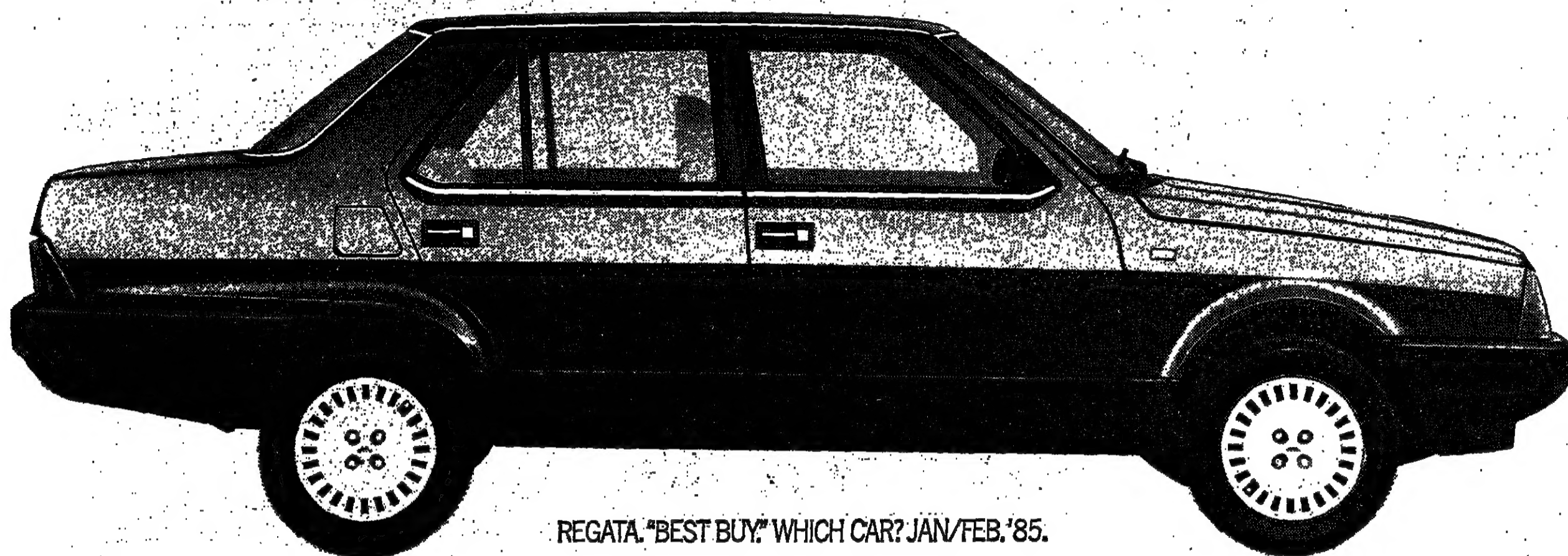
PANDA 4x4. "NOTHING ELSE GETS NEAR IT FOR ON-ROAD ECONOMY AND UTILITY COMBINED WITH OFF-ROAD AGILITY."\* FINANCIAL TIMES, JAN '85.

PANDA RANGE FROM £3,295-£4,545. CAR ILLUSTRATED PANDA 4x4 £4,545. UNO RANGE FROM £3,730-£5,105. CAR ILLUSTRATED UNO 70 SUPER £5,105. STRADA RANGE FROM £4,289-£7,800. CAR ILLUSTRATED STRADA ABARTH 130TC £7,800. REGATA SALOON RANGE FROM £5,105-£7,800. CAR ILLUSTRATED REGATA SALOON £7,800. \*OFFICIAL DOE FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR THE PANDA 4x4: 47.9 MPG (5.9 L/100KM) AT A CONSTANT 56 MPH, 35.8 MPG (7.9 L/100KM) AT A CONSTANT 75 MPH, 35.8 MPG (7.9 L/100KM) URBAN CYCLE.

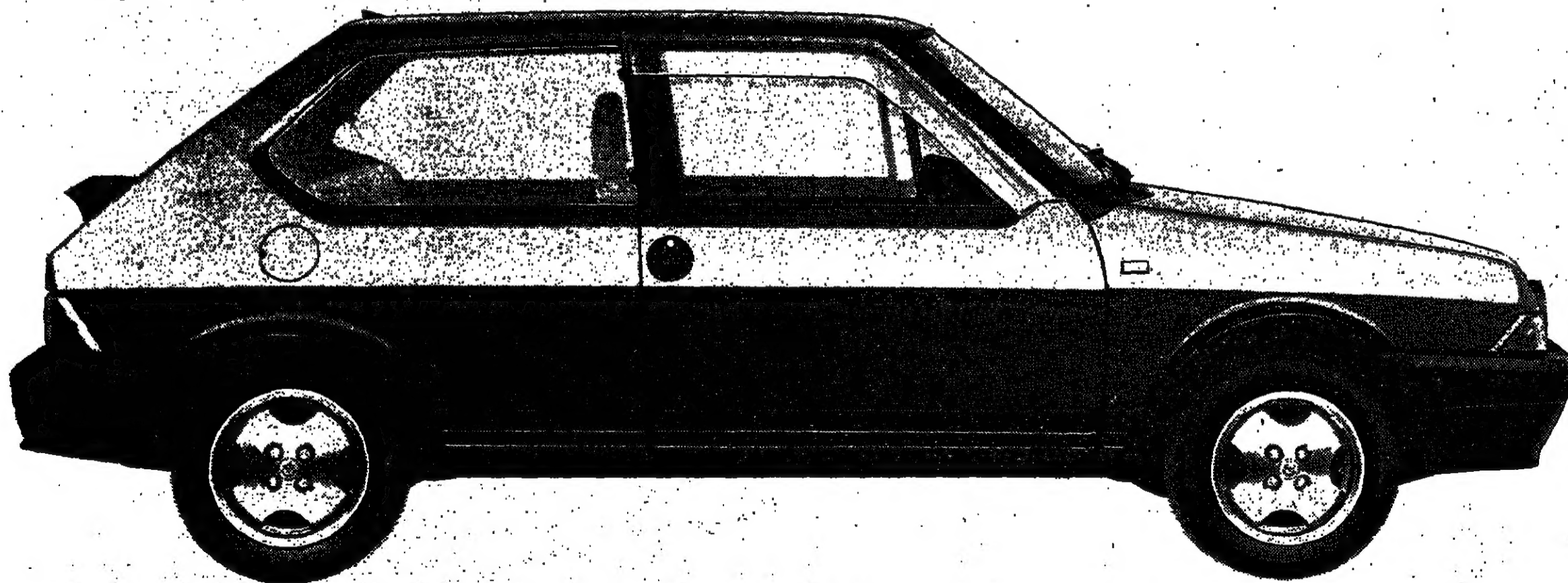




UNO. "THE BEST EVER SMALL CAR" WHAT CAR? MARCH '85.



REGATA. "BEST BUY" WHICH CAR? JAN/FEB. '85.



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Controversy as President is invited to 350th anniversary

## Harvard set for row on degree for Reagan

From Alex Brummer in Washington

The faculty at Harvard University is bracing itself for a vigorous debate about whether President Reagan should be awarded an honorary degree at next year's 350th anniversary celebration.

The university said yesterday that an invitation had gone to the White House asking Mr Reagan to speak at the anniversary which is due to meet on September 5, 1986. The White House, which has yet to decide whether to accept the invitation, has been making discreet inquiries to find out whether Mr Reagan would be honoured with a degree. The President is being urged to attend by his chief of staff, Mr Donald Regan, and his Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, both of whom hold Harvard degrees.

Some faculty members were quoted yesterday as saying that the President was seeking to negotiate conditions for his acceptance of the invitation. Decisions on honorary degrees are made by two boards of the university and candidates can be proposed or opposed by any one in the Harvard community, including faculty members and former graduates.

Opposition to Mr Reagan receiving a Harvard degree is already bubbling. The members of Harvard are not a "timid bunch," said Mr David Rosen, the university's vice-president for public affairs yesterday. "They like to express their views whether or

not they are asked."

Opening shots in the battle to prevent Mr Reagan being offered an honorary degree were fired by the Nobel Prize winning biologist, Mr George Wald.

"This President appeals me," he said, adding that Mr Reagan's presence at the 350th birthday celebrations was "a disgraceful necessity."

It has become almost a matter of form for American presidents to attend Harvard celebrations. President Andrew Jackson received an honorary degree from Harvard in 1835, three years before its bicentennial. President Grover Cleveland attended the 250th anniversary in 1886, but refused an honorary doctor of laws degree on the grounds that he was unworthy. President Franklin Roosevelt spoke at Harvard's 300th anniversary in 1936, but did not receive an honorary degree because he had been awarded one six years earlier while Governor of New York.

President Reagan, who scored notable political successes at universities across the country during last year's reelection campaign, has lost some of his popularity on campus in recent months. Among those invited to attend the 350th convocation is Prince Philip, as Chancellor of Cambridge University, which has special ties to Harvard through the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's founder Mr John Harvard. Buckingham Palace has sent word that the Prince will not attend.



WARSAW: President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua arrived in Warsaw from Czechoslovakia yesterday as part of his tour of eastern Europe. Mr Ortega was greeted at Okęcie airport by the Polish leader, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, and the president of the Council of State, Mr Henryk Jablonski, the Polish news agency PAP reported.

Mr Ortega was to meet General Jaruzelski for talks and visit a former Nazi concentration camp in Majdanek outside Warsaw later in the day.

He also has visited the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and Romania during his tour.

In Washington yesterday, the United States Government announced a reported new Nicaraguan allegation to the World Court that President Reagan illegally sought to overthrow the Sandinista Government.

"These Nicaraguan assertions are patently absurd," a State Department spokesman, Mr Edward Djerejian said.

"The President has repeatedly stated that we are not interested in overthrowing the government of Nicaragua or in imposing any particular government on that country."

The New York Times said yesterday that Nicaragua argued in a new brief in its World Court suit against the US that Mr Reagan's statements at a news conference on February 21 proved the overthrow of Nicaragua's government in violation of international law.

Mr Reagan said then that his goal

was to see the Sandinista Government "removed in the sense of its present structure, in which it is a communist totalitarian state."

Mr Djerejian said Mr Reagan had said only one thing: "The Sandinista behaviour, not their overthrow."

In Managua, Nicaraguan soldiers chasing a rightwing rebel force killed 32 of the insurgents in the central province of Boaco at the weekend, the Defence Ministry said last night. — AP/Reuter.

## Lebanese Muslims rule out rockets

BEIRUT: Lebanese Muslim leaders have told Syrian-backed Palestinian guerrilla leaders that they will not be allowed to launch rocket attacks against Israel from southern Lebanon, sources said yesterday.

The Lebanese leaders made it clear to delegates at the newly-established leadership of the Palestinian National Salvation Front of Damascus, who arrived in Beirut on Tuesday, that there would be no return to the situation existing before Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

At that time, the Palestine Liberation Organisation controlled southern Lebanon from where it periodically launched Katyusha rockets against Israel.

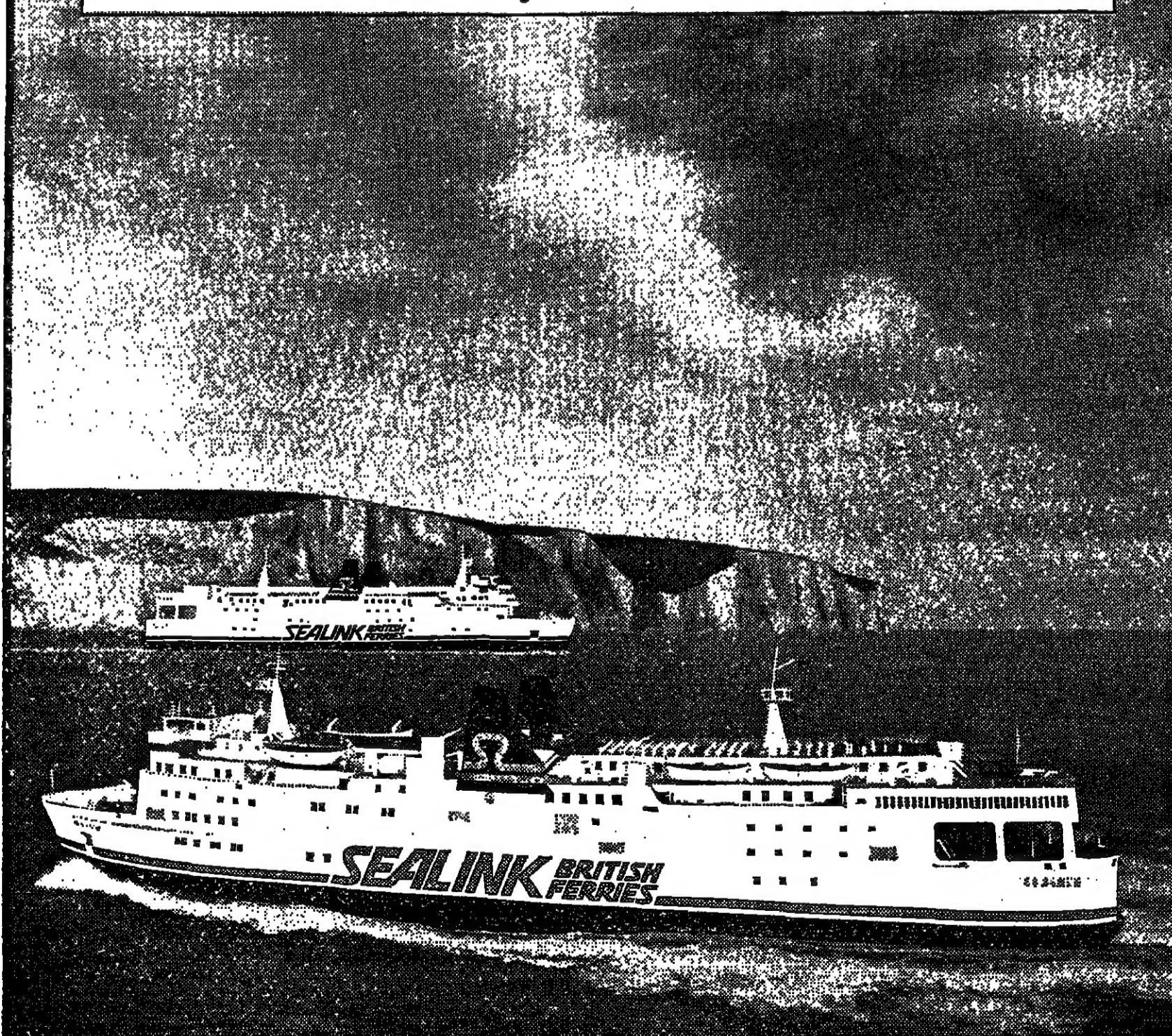
The team's most important talks were with Mr Berry, the Minister of State for southern Lebanon and leader of the Shi'ite militia, Amal, which has taken over much of the south from departing Israeli troops, sources said.

Amal wanted to consolidate its control of southern Lebanon, whose largely Shi'ite population would be most vulnerable to Israeli reprisals against guerrilla attacks.

Israel is building border fortifications to prevent such attacks, and is setting up a border security zone to be controlled by Israeli-backed Lebanese village militias. — Reuter.

Israel Foreign Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, said yesterday that UN peacekeeping troops in south Lebanon did not provide security and should not be in the region. — Reuter.

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## Tonkin Gulf attack may have been only a blip on the sonar

From Mark Tran in Washington

Fresh evidence suggests that the Tonkin Gulf incident that enabled President Johnson to extract from Congress the total power to go to war in August 1964, never took place as portrayed by the Administration at the time.

Even then, doubts were expressed about accounts of the incident, but these were swept aside as Mr Johnson capitalised on the sense of crisis in Congress to obtain the sweeping powers he wanted.

In the past few months, reports in the media — the magazine US News and World Report, NBC Television, and the Los Angeles Times — a book on the Vietnam war by Mr Stanley Karnov, and an account of the incident by one participant in the incident have sunk official accounts of the period.

In his book, Mr Karnov says: "Subsequent research by both official and unofficial investigators has indicated with almost total certainty that the second Communist attack in the Tonkin Gulf never took place."

The debate is of more than historical interest, since the Tonkin Gulf resolution still haunts present arguments — especially over Nicaragua — with many Democrats chary at giving President Reagan the same opportunity to drag the US into a conflict in Central America.

There is no doubt that North Vietnamese patrol boats ambushed two US destroyers, the Maddox and the Turner Joy, on August 2.

But the second attack, on August 4, seems to have been a phantom battle. An intelligence report convinced one of the commanders of the Maddox, Captain John Herrick, that an attack was imminent, but a senior CIA analyst in the Saigon station, Mr George Allen, interpreted the intercepted message as an order to investigate, not to attack.

The "battle" took place during a pitch black, stormy night. The destroyers asked for air cover after making radar contact with three suspected

targets, but the planes found nothing. At 9.40 pm, the Turner Joy began firing at a target, and the Maddox reported spotting torpedoes. For the next two hours, the ships took evasive action, fired 400 rounds of three- and five-inch shells into the night, dropped depth-charges, and at one point tried to ram their invisible attackers.

Afterwards, Captain Herrick and Captain Ogden conducted an experiment. They put the Maddox into high speed turns, after which their sonarman immediately reported hearing torpedoes. "It was the echo of our outgoing sonar beam hitting our rudders," said Captain Herrick. Most of the Maddox's reports were probably false.

As messages threaded their way back to Washington, President Johnson, who had earlier refrained from tough action on the first incident, was ready to take strong retaliatory measures, including bombing North Vietnamese targets.

First, President Johnson wanted Congress to give him a resolution supporting his actions. The resolution would contain the crucial authorisation to "take all necessary steps, including the use of armed forces," to prevent North Vietnamese aggression.

The Defence Secretary, Mr Robert McNamara, who later turned against the war, testified in favour of the resolution by portraying the incidents as a simple case of unprovoked North Vietnamese aggression. He did not mention US raids along the Vietnamese coast, or Captain Herrick's doubts about the second attack.

On August 7, the House of Representatives voted 416 to 11 in favour of the resolution. The vote in the Senate was 88 to two.

Within days of the second Tonkin Gulf incident, President Johnson, according to the Under-Secretary of State Mr George Ball, raised doubts about the attack. "Hell," he told Mr Ball, "those dumb stupid sailors were just shooting at flying fish."

## Former Pentagon deputy is gaoled

A former deputy Secretary failed to impose a prison sentence "it would place the system in jeopardy and cause it to lose its integrity." Both men were also fined the maximum \$5,000.

Mr Thayer and Mr Harris were at the centre of a small group of Dallas-based businessmen who netted some \$1.9 million from an illicit share dealing scheme. The enterprise was intended to provide financial security to their mistresses. The names of the SEC as Mr Ryno, who worked for Mr Thayer's former company, LTV, and Ms Juliet Williams, a Dallas-based aerobics dance instructor.

Government prosecutors told the court that a prison sentence was necessary to send a strong message to the business community to deter white collar crime.

## Beirut fighting continues

BEIRUT: Rocket fire yesterday kept the cross-border fighting between east and west Beirut closed for the seventh day running as President Amin Gemayel consulted government ministers and the army on ways of ending the fighting.

A multi-sectarian security committee abandoned an attempt to reopen the main "museum" crossing, when grenades fired into the air exploded over the road, security sources said.

A back road was open to light traffic, witnesses said, but the other five crossings between the Muslim and Christian sectors of the city were closed as militiamen traded sporadic artillery and sniper fire.

The clashes were muted compared to heavy shelling on Monday night, which newspaper and radio reports said killed 35 people and wounded more than 140, bringing fears of all-out civil war.

In talks with the Prime Minister, Mr Rashid Karami, the Defence Minister, Mr Adel Ossseiran, and army commanders, Mr Gemayel declared that the army was the only hope for peace.

Work was continuing to create the appropriate atmosphere for the army to deploy, Mr Gemayel said, adding: "Other armies cannot do so and should not be a substitute."

The Soviet Union has handed over control of SAM-5 anti-aircraft missile batteries in Syria to the Syrian Armed Forces, the Jerusalem Post reported yesterday. About 2,000 Soviet advisers have recently left Syria. — Reuter.

## Cairo fear on Sudan

Cairo: Egypt, committed to maintaining good relations with Sudan, is showing alarm over fence-mending under way between Khartoum and Tripoli, diplomats say.

A 40-man Libyan delegation led by Major Abdel-Salam Jallud, arrived in Khartoum last week to meet the army rulers who removed President Numeiri, an ally of Egypt and the United States, on April 6.

Egypt has not reacted publicly to Libyan statements in Khartoum that Libya and Sudan now share identical views. But President Mubarak summoned his ambassador to Khartoum for consultations on the Libyan-Sudanese reconciliation, and parliamentary foreign relations committee held a secret session on Sunday.

Egypt has always been willing to go to war rather than see a hostile power in Sudan, which controls the upper reaches of the Nile.

Relations were generally good while Numeiri was in power. He concluded a defence pact with Cairo, and supported Egypt's peace treaty with Israel. — Reuter.





A helmeted demonstrator takes cover behind an overturned police van in Noumea yesterday as other protesters run away. The violence in which one Kanak youth died and 65 people were injured was the worst since January.

## Jayewardene 'prisoner' to extremists in party

By Michael Simmons

President J. R. Jayewardene of Sri Lanka and his ministers are "prisoners" of extremists in their own political party, according to a report published by the British Parliamentary Human Rights Group.

Nothing can be done to end the island's intercommunal violence unless the Government is prepared to lead rather than always follow its supporters, it says. Among those exerting pressure on the 75-year-old President, who has been Head of State since 1978, are said to be the country's Buddhist monks and their supporters, the army as well as Mrs. Bandaranaike, who was prime minister for seven years in the 1970s.

Mrs. Bandaranaike, stripped

officially of civic rights in 1980, and her party, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, are accused of "apparent cowardice" and dereliction of duty in Parliament, and as a consequence, "the odds for asking the awkward, but most important, questions seems to fall on the single Communist Party member."

Without this member's intervention, the report says, there would be little or no attempt to question the Government. "It is small wonder that the Tamils see the Sinhalese political establishment — though divided on some issues — as being united in opposition to Tamil claims."

The report, compiled by Mr. Robert Kilroy-Silk and Mr. Roger Sims, who visited Sri Lanka in February, is based

## Zhao to visit Britain

DOWNING Street said yesterday that the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Zhao Ziyang, will visit Britain from June 2 to 8.

He will have two sessions of talks with Mrs. Thatcher and meet other Government ministers. He will also visit Scotland and Cambridge.

The Queen and the Lord Mayor of London will host lunches in his honour.

Mrs. Thatcher visited China last December to sign the joint declaration on Hong Kong.

Mr. Zhao will also visit West Germany and the Netherlands.

The Vice-Premier, Mr. Li Peng, will visit East Germany, Poland, and Hungary, from May 15 to June 1.

"The satisfactory settlement of the Hong Kong question has opened up new vistas for friendly cooperation with Britain," he said.

China has held out the prospect of greater business opportunities for both Hong Kong and Britain in the wake of the agreement.

Mr. Zhao's visit to Bonn returns a trip to China last year by the West German Chancellor, Dr. Helmut Kohl, during which he underlined their growing economic ties.

West Germany is China's biggest European trading partner. — Reuters.

## Colombo may gaoil reporter

From Eric Silver

Sri Lanka is taking legal action against a British journalist who is accused of "misreporting" a speech by President J. R. Jayewardene at a banquet in Colombo last month.

The cabinet spokesman, Dr. Anandadasa de Alwis, said yesterday that the Attorney-General was looking into the distorted report by Mr. Krishnan Anand of the Press Trust of India.

Asked what the penalty would be if the correspondent was found guilty, Dr. De Alwis replied: "gaoil."

The PTI journalist provoked a storm of indignation here when he quoted President Jayewardene as asking Mrs. Thatcher to send British troops to help put down Tamil separatist guerrillas in the troubled island.

The text, distributed later by the Sri Lanka High Commission here, was rambling and open to almost any interpretation of none. The British did not take it as a request for troops.

The decision to act against Mr. Anand reflects the tension between Sri Lanka and India on the Tamil issue and a growing campaign against foreign correspondents in general.

In a note distributed to all foreign missions in Colombo at the end of March, the Government announced that in future journalists would have to apply in advance for visas.

## Tribal fighting breaks out after schoolgirl's funeral

### Eight die in SA rioting

Johannesburg: Eight men died yesterday when tribal fighting erupted in Tsakane township, near Johannesburg, overnight, police said.

The bodies of the eight men, all from the Xhosa tribe, were found after what a police spokesman described as a running battle between Xhosas and Zulus.

Police headquarters in Pretoria said the deaths should not be confused with unrest which has swept the country's black townships over the past year.

A BLACK man died and a white soldier was injured as petrol bombings, stone-throwing, and arson continued in black townships across South Africa overnight, police said yesterday. — Reuters.

Police headquarters reported arson and rioting from other parts of South Africa overnight, and yesterday combined police and army convoys drove through a troubled township in the Eastern Cape, making door-to-door searches in what state-run radio described as an operation to restore law and order.

The government has blamed radicals for fomenting township unrest which has killed over 350 people in the past year, while political analysts blame wide-ranging grievances over apartheid for the rioting. — Reuters.

When hostellers—migrant workers from both Zulu and Xhosa tribal homelands—objected, fighting broke out.

Hostellers then attacked houses in Tsakane and township residents attacked the hostel, which was now almost completely burnt down, the residents said.

Many people from the township slept in surrounding fields last night to escape the fighting, while hostellers had now nearly all fled Tsakane, they said.

Tribal fighting, often among Zulu factions, is common in rural areas but much more rare in townships around big cities.

Police said a man was found dead yesterday at the hostel, while two more men were burnt to death by a crowd on Tuesday. Police were still investigating whether these deaths were linked with the tribal fight.

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## Ibnet awaits famine victims

Addis Ababa: Thousands of people who were dispersed from one of Ethiopia's biggest relief camps are expected to return in the next few days, the top UN representative here, Mr. Kurt Jansson, said yesterday.

After visiting the camp at Ibnet by helicopter, Mr. Jansson said that he was very impressed by government efforts to provide facilities and supplies for 8,000 to 10,000 famine victims expected to return in the next few days. — Reuters.

## Police break up SA sit-in

Washington: A sit-in at the offices of a foreign exchange company dealing in South African gold Kruggerand coins ended yesterday when police arrested five prominent anti-apartheid demonstrators.

The five, including Congressman Walter Fauntroy, were detained briefly and then released without bail. The Deak-Perera foreign exchange and precious metals firm, called in the police after the demonstrators climbed over a counter and entered a "security area." — Reuters.

## Lagos tops survey of tourist traps

From Iain Guest

The Nigerian capital, Lagos, is the most expensive city in the world for foreigners, followed by Tokyo, Tehran and Cairo, according to a worldwide survey of living costs in 1984 released here yesterday.

The survey, by Business International, was based on the prices of a shopping basket of items in 93 cities that were analysed over a week in January. These were then compared with 1983 prices to yield a rate of inflation and compared to prices in New York, which were used as the baseline.

The survey finds that prices in Lagos were 46 per cent higher than New York due to "exorbitant" black market prices that run as high as \$17 for 2lbs of rice. Tokyo ranks second, with an index of 118, followed by Tehran, at 116.

Prices in Tehran are high for foreigners, the survey says, because they do not have access to ration cards which subsidise prices for local people.

The survey says that the strength of the dollar has made American cities more expensive, but had the opposite effect outside the United States. In Europe, the most expensive city is Oslo—87 on the index with New York—followed by Zurich (75), Geneva (74), Vienna (72) and Stockholm (71).

London (63) is one of the best bargains of all for tourists. The cheapest European city surveyed is Lisbon, where prices were found to be only 53 per cent of those in New York. The cheapest city of all those surveyed was Rio de Janeiro (46), despite an annual inflation rate in 1984 of 219 per cent.

Comparing 1983 with 1984 prices, the survey found that inflation reached 565 per cent in Buenos Aires, and 453 per cent in Tel Aviv, in Europe, however, the rates were uniformly low, with the exception of Athens (22 per cent) and Rome (10 per cent).

Inflation in London was found to be 6 per cent. Frankfurt had the lowest rate, of 2.5 per cent.

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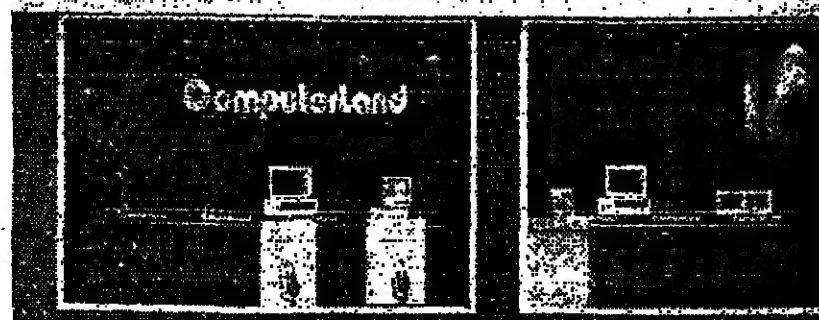
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## Space weapons and Nicaragua feature in VE-Day speeches

# Superpowers stand firm on arms positions

By Hella Pick

President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev marked VE-Day with mutual recriminations, which bode ill for the superpower dialogue that both say they seek.

Mr Reagan, speaking before the European Parliament in Strasbourg, accused the Soviet Union of developing new nuclear missiles designed to give it a first strike capability, certain to undermine strategic stability.

The President said that space weapons could stop the nuclear arms race and roused Soviet susceptibilities by declaring that the West could never accept the artificial division of Europe.

The Soviet leader, speaking in the Kremlin, said that US "imperialism" posed an urgent threat to peace and

Gorbachev yesterday, that both superpowers should agree to ban space weapons altogether. "President Reagan said that he wanted 'fair, equitable, verifiable' arms agreements above all with respect to offensive weapons," while the Russians say that they will not agree to limitations on offensive nuclear arsenals without an agreement on space weapons.

President Reagan also said that the US "will insist on compliance with past agreements." This was a reference to US allegations of violations by the Soviet Union of existing arms control agreements, including the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (Salt I).

The Russians have rejected all such allegations. They say that the Star Wars programme breaks existing treaties.

Although the proposals made by President Reagan yesterday were expressly designed to regain the public relations initiative, they were borrowed from a Nato package that is already on the table at the Disarmament Conference, Disarmament and Confidence-building Measures in Europe.

His statement that the US was prepared to discuss a declaration on the non-use of force in the context of Soviet agreement to "concrete confidence-building measures" was a repetition of an offer a year ago. Patrick Kealey adds: The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, is expected to have talks with the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Andrei Gromyko, when they are in Vienna next week for the 30th anniversary of the ending of the four-power occupation of Austria.

In Whitehall, there is concern about the promised visit to Britain by Mr Gromyko, in return for Sir Geoffrey's trip to Moscow last summer. There had been heavy agreement that the Gromyko visit should take place in the first half of 1985, but the death of Mr Chernomerkov intervened.

The more recent affair of the expulsion of five Soviet officials from Britain for espionage, and the counter expulsions of British officials from Moscow, cooled matters further. Sir Geoffrey's concern in Vienna will be to see if the plan can be restored at least in principle.

repeated long-standing Soviet claims that it was the United States, and not the Soviet Union, that was seeking strategic superiority. While both leaders asserted that they wanted arms control agreements and dialogue, neither showed any readiness to address himself to the concerns of the other. Both speeches lacked new proposals capable of breaking the impasse in arms control negotiations, or even in their diplomatic exchanges.

President Reagan justified his claim that the Soviet Union was moving towards strategic superiority with the disclosure that the Soviet Union was about to deploy a new Mv nuclear missile.

The Americans have known and talked publicly about these new Soviet missiles for some time, and military experts put it in the same class as the US MX missile, for which President Reagan is still seeking additional large sums in congressional appropriations.

In Strasbourg yesterday, Mr Reagan insisted that the best way of bringing the nuclear arms race to a halt was to concentrate on the development of defensive, non-nuclear, space weapons. In defending his Strategic Defence Initiative, he ignores Soviet insistence, repeated by Mr



Moscow remembers: A billboard promotes the film Pobeda (victory), while a war veteran, Georgi Ivanov, dons a uniform and assorted war medals for yesterday ceremony.

## Reagan draws jeers and cheers in Strasbourg

From Derek Brown in Strasbourg

JEERING, heckling, poster-waving British Labour MEPs walked out of the European Parliament yesterday during an address by President Reagan.

They continued to barrack from the back of the chamber as the President finished his 45-minute speech, intended to be a highlight of his already difficult European tour.

The Labour protest sparked similar, though more muted, demonstrations from other MEPs in the Socialist, Communist, and "rainbow" ecology groups. They were particularly incensed by presidential references to Soviet aggression in Nicaragua, and the need for the West to maintain its nuclear strength.

Labour members pinned handbills on their desks and clothes, proclaiming "Hands off Nicaragua," "Star Wars no," and other slogans. Some, like the Merseyside East MEP, Mr Les Buckfield—who has taken part in previous disruptions in the huge hemicycle of Strasbourg—waved aloft bigger banners.

President Reagan, who had a rapturous

reception from the centre-right majority of MEPs, including the British Conservatives, was apparently nonplussed first by the stony silence of the parliamentary left, and then by the gathering force of their protests.

After only a few sentences of his lengthy speech, he stumbled badly over his words. At first, it seemed that his twin-screen autocue had broken down, as he reverted to reading a typed script—a method he is said to detest.

The centre-right accepted the parliamentary division by applauding repeatedly during the early stages of the speech. Each burst of clapping and desk-banging emphasised the solid silence on the other side of the chamber.

Isolated mutters of dissent from the left were amplified to heckling when President Reagan referred to "Soviet efforts to profit from and stimulate regional conflicts in Central America."

There were more shouts and boos when he called on France and Britain to maintain and modernise their nuclear deterrents. A few Socialist members left the chamber

when the President defended his Star Wars research programme.

When he again turned to Soviet expansion in Angola, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, and Nicaragua there was a concerted walkout. The Labour leader, Mrs Barbara Castle, seemed in danger of being stranded in the front row of the Socialist block of seats but she turned, saw what was happening, and immediately left at the head of her remaining troops.

About 40 members in all, most of them Labour, joined the protest although many remained at the back of the chamber to heckle and wave their banners. Mr Buckfield returned at the end of the speech, bearing aloft a huge poster.

President Reagan, meanwhile, had recovered his poise—and his mastery of the autocue—to complete his speech, and win yet more applause from the centre-right.

He said to the disappearing backs of the Labour members: "Now I have learned something useful. May be if I talked long enough in my own Congress some of those will walk out." This was a quip he first

used in similar circumstances in the Irish Dail.

At the end of his carefully scripted speech, he added that the demonstrations were taking advantage of democratic freedom. Yet they "seem unaware that if the Government which they would advocate became reality, no one would have that freedom."

An unrepentant Mrs Castle said later that the President had abused the Parliament as a platform for propaganda. "To have him prating about freedom and democracy at the very moment when he has declared economic war against the democratically-elected Government of Nicaragua, was too much to bear," she said.

After the speech, witnessed by, among others in the jam-packed gallery, Mrs Nancy Reagan and the Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, the President was warmly embraced again to his apparent surprise, by the President of the Parliament, Mr Pierre Frimlin, before being lead away towards the last leg of his European tour in Portugal. The chamber then emptied rapidly.

## Bombs greet US President

From Peter Collis in Lisbon

The Socialist/Social Democrat Government, led by Dr Mario Soares, welcomed President Reagan last night, but the Communist Party urged members and unions to join demonstrations against the President.

On Tuesday night a bomb exploded in the installations of the American Radio Free Europe, causing slight damage.

Yesterday afternoon, an hour before Mr Reagan was scheduled to land at Lisbon's military airport, the telephone threat of another bomb forced the evacuation of all students from the American Institute, run by the US Information Service.

The mines brigade inspected the premises and found nothing. The bombing of Radio Free Europe was claimed by a previously unknown organisation calling itself the Anti-Capitalist and Anti-Military Group.

They claimed that they had exploded the bomb to show their opposition to Mr Reagan's visit.

Mr Reagan will be received by President Ramalho Eanes and Dr Soares at lunch in the City Palace in Sintra and a dinner in the palace at Ayuda.

He is expected to address the Portuguese parliament on Thursday morning after talks with the Prime Minister.

Mr Reagan will discuss the problem of Namibian independence and other African ques-

## Stalin aside wins plaudits

From Martin Walker in Moscow

The loudest and longest applause for Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's VE-Day address at the Kremlin last night came with his almost token mention of Joseph Stalin.

The reference to Stalin was almost an aside in a long and powerful speech which stressed that Mr Gorbachev wanted not just a return to détente, but the building of something stronger and more lasting.

He combined this with a vigorous restatement of the Soviet view of history which defined the Nazi armies as "the shock troops of imperialism," and condemned the British and French statesmen who signed

the Munich Agreement with Hitler as criminals. "prodding Hitler so insistently into attacking the Soviet Union."

Mr Gorbachev damned with faint praise the role of the Western Allies in defeating Hitler, and went on to commend the Nazi-Soviet pact by blaming Britain and France for starting the war.

"The Munich policy of the Western powers, their connivance at Hitler's aggression eventually brought a terrible tragedy to all the peoples of Europe. The part played by those who, despite the Soviet Union's persistent calls, refused to form a united front to stop the Nazi adventurists, was a criminal one."

It was the ultimate in political irresponsibility. By his class essence, our war with Hitler was a class war. Mr Gorbachev was speaking primarily to Russians who have been brought up on the view that the Nazi-Soviet pact was a cunning device to buy time and frustrate the Anglo-French plan to set the Germans and Russians at one another's throats. He echoed Stalin's wartime appeal to the old religious roots of Russia in one startling phrase: "The mortal danger overhanging the homeland and a tremendous force of patriotism raised the entire country to a people's war — to a holy war," he said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Tape shows Briton 'well'

THE American wife of a British reporter, kidnapped in Beirut in March while working for the UN, has received a videotaped interview with him that indicates he is well, a UN spokesman said yesterday in New York. Alice Collett told his unidentified, off-camera interviewer that he was in good health, receiving medicine for diabetes and had not been threatened. The tape, which runs for more than 10 minutes, was mailed to New York in Switzerland. —Reuters.

### Behind bars

THE parents of a four-year-old, deaf-mute boy have been sentenced to four years eight months in prison for keeping him locked up in a small wooden cage in their home outside Rome. Court sources said the sentence was considered harsh, considering the child's treatment was probably due to the ignorance of the mother. Annunziata Marazzita, aged 22. They said there would be an appeal for a lighter sentence. —AP.

### Government win

THE Israeli Government yesterday easily defeated a no confidence move in parliament over allegations that the former defence minister Mr Ezer Weizman, leaked state secrets to the White House. The two main government factions, Labour and Likud, joined forces to reject the motion by 92 votes to five. —Reuters.

### Still in Gorky

THE dissident Russian physicist, Andrei Sakharov is still exiled in Gorky, east of Moscow. The Soviet Health Minister, Mr Sergei Burenkov said in Geneva yesterday. He was replying to a question following rumours that the Nobel Peace Prize laureate had left for West Europe. —Reuters.

### Border flight

AN EAST GERMAN who fled across the border to West Germany told border police he had wanted to celebrate his birthday yesterday in freedom. The 24-year-old crane operator defected by crossing into Lower Saxony. —Reuters.



● Claus Von Bulow: 'blamed coma on drinking'

### Bulow, 'waited'

CLAUS Von Bulow, on trial in Rhode Island for the attempted murder of his wife by giving her insulin, dismissed her illness as the result of drink, the family doctor told the court yesterday. When Dr Janis Galittis responded to a second call hours later he found her in a coma. The trial continues. —AP.

### Freedom day

YUGOSLAVIA's state presidency has pardoned 121 prisoners, more than half of them political detainees, to mark the 40th anniversary of VE Day, the Justice Minister, Mr Borislav Kraljina, said yesterday. The country's six republics and two autonomous provinces pardoned other 450 prisoners, sentenced under provincial law. —Reuters.

### Out of print

MR CLIVE KINSLEY has asked to take, and been given, early retirement as managing director of South African Associated Newspapers, it was announced yesterday in Johannesburg. Sean, one of two English-language publishing chains in South Africa, closed the Rand Daily Mail last week. —AP.

### Pit deaths

EIGHT miners were killed and another 17 were killed dead yesterday in a gas explosion in a coal mine in north Moravia, Czechoslovakia, on Tuesday. Another eight miners were rescued with minor injuries and 17 were still trapped the CTK news agency reported yesterday. —AP.

### Pylon bombs

TWO bombs felled four high-voltage pylons on the southern outskirts of Luxembourg, causing extensive damage and slightly injuring five people, police said yesterday. —AP.

## Municipal poll may hurt Craxi

From George Armstrong in Rome

More than 44 million people are expected to go to the polls on Sunday to elect new city councils or provincial or regional assemblies.

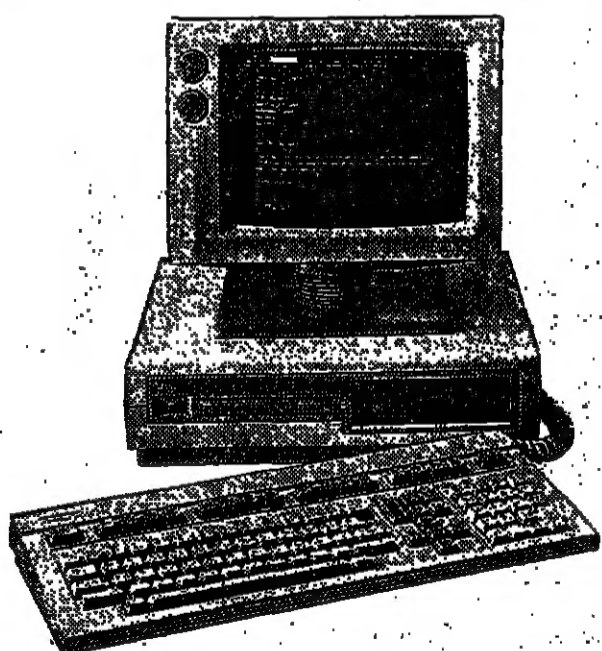
Even though some of the voters may be expressing opinions on local issues, the size of the electorate is such that the future of the national Government, headed by Mr Craxi, may be decided.

The election could also show that the Communist party is the country's largest. In last year's European Parliament elections here, the Communists overtook the Christian Democrats by a fraction of a per cent. The 1984 election, however, took place shortly after the unexpected death of the Communist leader, Mr Berlinguer, and that could have accounted for the Communist's spurt.

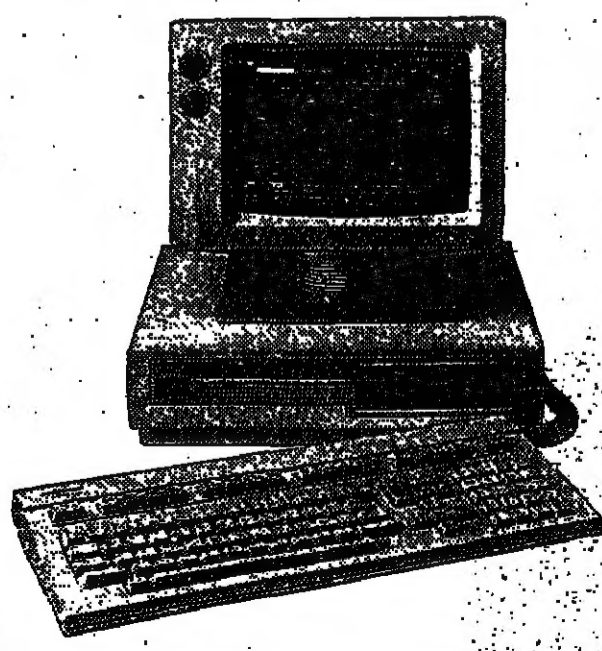
Nevertheless, an opinion poll sponsored by La Repubblica newspaper (based not on how those people polled planned to vote but on their opinions of the present Government coalition) is being interpreted by that paper to mean that the Christian Democrats will have a sharp setback and the Communists will increase their vote.

In another opinion poll, sponsored by the Confederation of Italian industrialists, 90 per cent of the Italians said they thought they were "badly governed". Customarily, the Prime Minister's party does well at municipal elections. Mr Craxi, the first Socialist prime minister, has been in office since the summer of 1983, but there is make appreciable gains.

If they should do well, Mr Craxi has promised the Christian Democrats that the Socialists will withdraw their support from the local leftwing coalitions which now dominate the city councils of Rome, Genoa, Turin, Milan, Florence, and Venice.



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# THIS WEEK

## LOOSE CONNECTIONS

What kind of relationship turns you on?  
Is it platonic? Is it just being good friends? Or is it sex?  
In tonight's film at 9:30 Stephen Rea plays a gay, German-speaking vegetarian, who gets picked-up by an attractive feminist. She's more interested in cars than men.  
What's the attraction?

## COSI' FAN TUTTE

On Sunday at 2.30 two young officers play a game of sexual deception on their lovers.

Pretending to go away, only to return in disguise in an attempt to seduce them.

This all goes on in a Mozart opera. Played on original instruments in an 18th-century theatre.

It's funny how some things never change.



# SEX AND

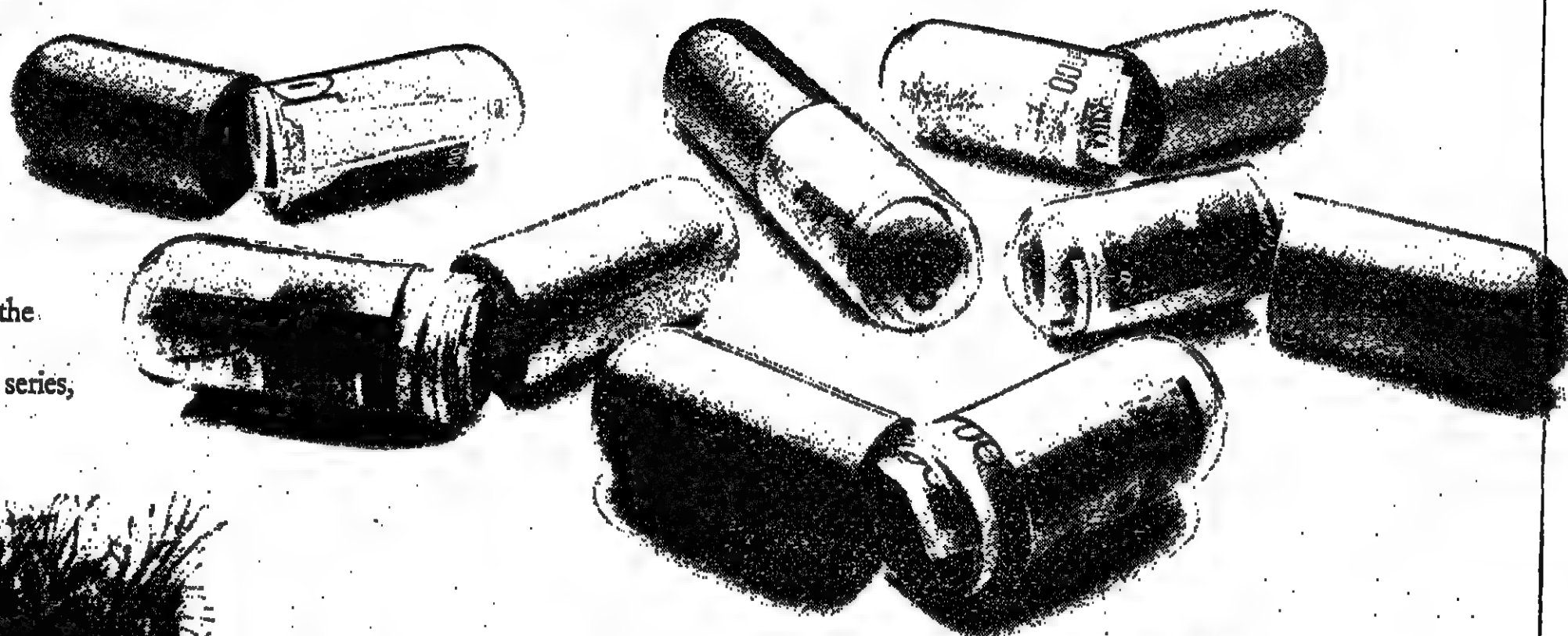
## HILL STREET BLUES

In this week's episode every cop on the precinct has to take a drugs test.

Three are reluctant.

**Are they addicted to the stuff or the money that's in it?**

If you're hooked to this fast moving series,  
you can get another fix on  
Saturday at 10.00.



# DRUGS AND

## THE GREAT ROCK 'N' ROLL SWINDLE

On Friday at 11.30 sex and drugs and rock and roll, the lot.

At EMI's expense, Malcolm McLaren sets out to prove that he's a bigger crook than Ronnie Biggs, can sing slightly better and has the sharpest brain in the music biz.

It's total mayhem with Sid being Vicious and Johnny being Rotten as an actor.

**'The Sex Pistols' don't give a carrot.**

Kick the fuddy-duddies out, on Friday  
it's 'Anarchy' in your front room.



## MAX HEADROOM

**No DJ is safe. It's Rock...Rock...Rock and Roll on Saturday at 6.**

There are videos galore when Ma...Ma...Max Headroom comes rolling out of Big... Big...Big Time Cable TV, and puts every DJ's job in jeopardy. Intro... ducing Ma... Ma...Madness, China Crisis, Supertramp...tramp...tramp, Spandau...Spandau... Spandau... Roll over all you other DJ's with plastic faces.

KEEP YOUR EYE ON

# ROCK AND ROLL.



# The magic without the Method



Fettes: getting back the sacred back into the theatre

THEATRICAL politics bear no relation to Westminster — almost everybody claims they're just as much sense of government and opposition, or ins and outs. The only trouble is that being opposition in the theatre can mean you're so far out that in professional terms you cease to exist.

Christopher Fettes, who

makes his debut as an opera producer with Handel's *Orlando* in Glasgow last night, is definitely opposition. He started being out when he dropped Oxford without a degree in the Fifties and became an actor. He went on being out when he threw in his lot with the Harold Lang / Yat Malmgren Drama Centre and Method training in the early Sixties: he devoted most of his time to preaching the opposition gospel there. And he's still determined to be out, even though over the last three years he's been "rediscovered" as a proponent of Baroque and Schottish (Berenice and most recently *Intermezzo* with Sheila Gish) and classed as a resolutely European-minded director.

What is Fettes again? Basically it's George Bernard Shaw and talking theatre. He's against intellectualising theatre, against the idea of Shakespeare productions stemming from seminars

held by Cambridge graduate thespians. "I find it absolutely deadly," he says more than once during our interview.

What is he for? The tradition exemplified by Henry Irving ("against whom Shaw fought a pitched battle") and Gordon Craig and Appia and Rheinhardt, the tradition of melo-drama in the strict sense, "an attempt to get the sacred element back into theatre, the marriage of drama with the lyrical dimension."

Handel's *Orlando*, he says, offers the perfect opportunity to reassert that strong ("though not most popular") tradition of the British theatre. After all, Fettes points out, opera in its baroque origin was an attempt to put back the essentially Dionysian aspect of classical tragedy. And it's that sense of celebratory ritual, requiring spectacle, settings, costumes, so much more than mere literary meaning, that

sets operatic theatre apart from the world of the British playhouse as we have known it for most of this century.

Fettes is not a Handel opera buff at all: in fact the only Handel he's seen are Samson, Xerxes and Radamisto and Imeneo at Sadler's Wells last November. It's that his Racine productions that suggest him to Scottish Opera for Handel. "Racine may be the best possible introduction, because it's always supposed that Racine wrote *Iphtimie* to demonstrate to Lully and Charpentier how to write an opera text."

Of course in opera, Fettes doesn't have to supply the framework in time and the pace, because the music makes that a given factor. But directing a classic French or Greek play he says means being able to read the text as if it were a musical score, and find its expressive rhythm.

Fettes seems to think opera an easier assignment than theatre. "It probably is," he says. "There are many more directors who would chance their arm on an opera than on Racine or Sophocles."

In Britain we tend to regard the European classical drama as being constrained by conventions, inhibited in expression compared with our more chaotic native efforts. Yet, with some notable exceptions, we have usually driven into exile (to Europe where they belong) such of our homegrown theatrical talents as display poetic daring, visual colour, or extreme theatricality.

"According to Craig," says Fettes, "Irving was a very considerable director. He exploited his sense of theatre to supply a kind of emotional content which he felt contemporary writers were turning away from. Craig hated Shaw with great intensity, and he derived from

what Irving did at the Lyceum. And that is very much the tradition of German theatre today, although it's an aspect of theatre not at all developed in Britain, which is why there is such an abyss between theatre on the continent and English theatre."

Fettes is staunchly opposed to any notion of theatre as a museum, where there are standard or correct ways of performing. "Everything has to be reinvented according to the needs of the time. As a socialist I believe that what one does in theatre has got to relate to the world or real people, and if possible increase the audience's knowledge of that world, change them, make life a bit more bearable."

Working on *Orlando* he has been entirely unable to apply the methods, or Method, that he usually adopts in rehearsal. *Orlando* is a magic opera in which he has collaborated with his

Christopher Fettes talks to Tom Sutcliffe on his Glasgow debut as opera producer

Nanny Banks Smith samples the early morning delights of VE Day

## Whale meat again

NOW do you remember a sprig of those days when we stood alone in the streets according to tradition, waiting for the VE Day?

It was cold and dark and the food, though adequate, was not precisely tempting. The boredom was broken by occasional sirens, with a stroke of near-genius, a television (TV-am) re-produced all the conditions in the forecast of their Great Billed Egg-Building at Camden Lock.

They arranged two trestle tables in a V-shape, invited a selection of unsuspecting guests and made them sit there from dawn to 2.30 am eating sandwiches. That demonstrated, as few other things could, the courage and resolution of our proud island race. There the sat, wrapped in rugs, retombing the cold old days and waving, when urged to, little paper flags.

It was, perhaps, a mistake to invite Spike Milligan, who has an Irish habit of going off unprogrammed, and the all-rounder entertainment he insisted on the warmth of the studio. "The original concept," he complained, "was to sit me outside with a crowd of old pensioners eating jam tarts at five in the morning. I couldn't see what that was to do with VE Day. Those poor devils—having fought the war, they have to go through this."

Offered a cup of TV am tea, he spurned that, too, on the ground that he had already had and it tasted like water from the Orinoco. "It's going to be a day of lumps in the throat," Anna Diamond said, referring presumably to the sandwiches. Fire engines screamed past occasionally, giving that little extra flavour of the Blitz. The morning wore on, the customers relaxed, and began to demand a rum ration. "There's rum and brandy and whisky waiting for you," promised Nick Owen largely. Ann Shelton sang *Roll Out The Barrel* encouragingly, and Winney dressed as Wren, dressed an economical selection of balloons.

I would not have missed it for worlds. If the British Empire should last a thousand years, this was their finest hour.

Over at BBC's Welsh street party, Selina Scott had remembered an urgent prior appointment in Scotland, and Mike Smith was holding up a small tin of snok and explaining that it was whale meat, without, however, explaining what a whale was, into that size of tin.

Timewatch's *The Battle For Berlin* (BBC 2) was a different tin of fish entirely. The title was double-edged and its evocation of hatred and a far-eastern you step back like a ferked cone. When however deliberately allowed the Russians to take Berlin, in another man I would have thought that Machiavellian, the Russians hated the Germans, the Germans feared the Russians, they love each other to pieces.

Anna Vladimirova Nikulina was a front-line infantry major and a political commissar. Grey-haired and glittering with medals, she still vibrates with the memory of the day they killed my parents, they killed my husband, they killed my children because they were Russian. I hated these people.

When the Russians fought their way to the ruined Reich chancellery, she climbed on to the roof and tied the red flag there. "Suddenly I felt completely drained physically but as I stood up there on the top of the building with the banner billowing behind me, I thought, 'I am a Communist'."

So serious was the hatred that you remember like refreshment the head keeper of the Berlin Zoo, who with the city burning picked up a two-year-old baby hippo— with difficulty, some imagine— took it home and hid it in his bath. The hippo, Snouty, is still alive.

The mental image of the woman standing wrapped in the floating red flag is vivid no more so than the picture of the man running with a hippo under his arm.

Playing politics, like cynical depends for its interest on collision with reality. Since people stopped going to meetings where they could shout back and started sitting at home where they were lectured.

President Reagan's edge-of-the-seat speech at Strasbourg was a very telling argument for televising Parliament. Something threw him badly at the beginning. The silent barracking of the slogans held up for him to see was disconcerting or, perhaps, from long practice in using prompt boards he was tempted to read them aloud. You could take bets on whether that joke about getting Congress to walk out was off the cuff. The very phrase suggests it was written on the spot. But dull it was not. I did not realise until it was over that in politics a 20-minute speech lasts 40 minutes.

NOTTINGHAM  
Robin Thorner

## Gentleman Jim

RAYMOND BRIGGS's comic-strip characters of Jim and Hilda Bloogs have already transferred with great aplomb to the stage and radio as the retired couple, dutifully sheltering from the clear attack in *When The Wind Blows*. And here they are again.

Or rather, here they are before. Because in this new incarnation at Nottingham Playhouse, Jim is still working as a lowly lavatory attendant, dreaming of doing something more exciting. Browsing through the job ads he reviews the possibilities that are not open to him.

Are you a decisive person? "Well, I don't know."

Heroic commands or tall gunner, a Parisian painter of genius, a business executive with a company car and brass initials on his briefcase — he is disqualified from all these fantasies because he hasn't got the required O-levels. When he was at school all they gave you was a clip over the ear.

He can't be a free-booting cowboy because the boots are too expensive. So he sets out to become a Poldark-style highwayman, galloping through the night to rob the rich and give to the poor, with Hilda supportively ironing his cloak. But bureaucracy can't take the stuff that dreams are made of.

And the nightmare of Jim and Hilda's cosy little world, where a wiggling from the park keeper is a clash with the authorities, becomes reality.

Briggs's blow for freedom from form-filling — well, its more of a last gasp than a blow — does startling, with its unrestrained flights of fantasy. But director Andrew May, designer Robert Jones, and the Playhouse's hard-working technical crew have done as much as is theatrically possible — and then a little more — to turn the cartoon into live actuality.

You can't blame them, or

the performances of Freddie Lees and Maryann Turner as Jim and Hilda, if the material sometimes seems stretched a little thin to cover a couple of hours. There is still enough there, in *Gentleman Jim*'s dreams of glory, to keep the audience both touched and chuckling to the elegant end.

CARDIFF  
David Adams

## Witness For The Prosecution

IT WAS perhaps fortunate that one couldn't exactly remember the denouement of *Witness For The Prosecution*, knowing the ending would have taken away what little incentive there was for sitting through three acts of Theatre Cwyd's tedious production of an exceedingly tedious play. As it was, having two intervals and two excuses to stay in the bar was surely tempting providence.

Charles Laughton and Marien Dietrich are to blame may be. Their cinema portrayals of the defence counsel and the enigmatic wife of the accused have given Agatha Christie's court room drama a reputation it doesn't deserve, and an expectation impossible to live up to. One needs a Billy Wilder, too, to bring out the humour and tension in what is for 99 per cent of the play a slow moving undramatic tale where, frankly, we don't care whether the characterless Vole did or did not kill his wealthy benefactor, or indeed whether he will be hung, by the neck.

(Fifties trial plays have been produced as historical pieces or the threat of the movie is meaningless; even so, George Roman put this a few years later, setting it at the time of the film rather than the stage production).

Alan Lewis tries desperately to give the wretched accused some sort of charisma, with a typically intense, twitchy performance that is quite fascinating but

rather inappropriate. David Lloyd Meredith plays Roberts relatively low-key, although his broad-beamed, sticky figure is distinctive enough for us to have our incredulity in the whole thing reinforced when Nina Hollaway says she didn't recognise him in chambers without his wig — why his little wig is positively dwarfed by his magnificent beard!

But then none of it is believable, with a series of twists at the end that simply don't stand analysis. As a play it's deeply dissatisfying and as a production it's merely convincing in its banality.

IMPERIAL  
WAR MUSEUM  
Tom Sutcliffe

## The Emperor



John Rath as Death

VIKTOR Ullmann died in Auschwitz and this presentation of his Theresienstadt opera, *The Emperor Of Atlantis*, forms part of the Imperial War Museum's VE Festival. You cannot detach his music and Peter Klein's text for this morbid and heavily ironical singspiel from the circumstances that begat them.

But is the work interesting except as a testament to hope and humanity? The plot outlines a fable in which Death goes on strike, and life breaks out. The Em-

peror has to turn his attention from processing the dead (how many? answer: 10,000 kilos of phosphorus) to dealing with the implications of everybody getting an infinite span. He asks, is it such a bad thing that people cannot die? But eventually he welcomes back Death — Without you the people could not live. And he accepts Death's terms for taking up the scythe again, that he, the Emperor, must be the first one to die. Student expressionism, I suppose, has done worse.

But Ullmann's music carries this rather juvenile period piece to strangely moving conclusions. The long final number for the Emperor, hooked by fate, thereby lends the closing chorale with its violin and harjo obbligato interludes a very touching character, the whiffs of melody a strange reminiscence of fortississimo notes early in *The Lady Is A Tramp* hanging mournfully in the air. Ullmann studied under Schoenberg but here the preceding influence is the sardonic music of Weill, though not so up-rhythm. There are echoes of Schubert, and sometimes melodic material has a Wagner-like sturdiness. There's even a naughty parody of Dentschland der Adler.

Nicholas Till's production is overshadowed by the Theresienstadt link, instead of pursuing the Broadway aspirations which Ullmann's score positively evokes. Perhaps it would be truer to the memory of the unfortunate if the production style were more like a Colditz end-of-term romp. The whole point of this art is to reject the situation, absurd rather than tragic, in which the composer and librettist recognised themselves.

The Morley Music Viva Ensemble play very nicely for Michael Graubart, the telling and fugitive quality of the music well projected. John Rath sounded throaty as Death, the sonorous, dark coloured voice not smoothly under control. Stuart Harling did not inject enough commitment into his awkward big number. Christopher Gillett managed his curtain-raising and chorus role as Pierrot convincingly, and Jill Washington led the chorale quartet fearlessly.



Slight entertainment from the Pointer Sisters. Picture by Allan Titmus

Mick Brown reviews the Pointer Sisters at Hammersmith

## Adrift on a sea of treacle

AN evening of day-glo fun, novelty hats and funny sunglasses is not, perhaps, the first thing one expects of the Pointer Sisters. But then why not? For fifteen years, the Pointers have stayed at, or near, the top of the tree — the most consistently successful, arguably the only notable girl group in pop since the Supremes. One should expect their performance to incorporate some of the slicker and more obvious plays of mainstream showbusiness.

What one does not expect is that the values of American entertainment at its most bogus and blatant should have infiltrated their

act to the extent they have, and to such detriment to the obvious musical qualities of the group.

There were moments during this performance when one seemed to have stumbled upon a pilot for some nightmarish television "light entertainment" concoction, carefully spiced with the requisite measures of comedy, nostalgia and glamour. When Sister Anita and the band donned cowboy hats, and the synthesizer pretended to be a fiddle, during *Lost In A Dream*, when sister June performed a hard-rock parody of embarrassing awfulness, and when all three sisters engaged in bawdy, campily understated what-

ever natural warmth, wit and sassiness they may possess.

In this sea of treacle, the strengths of the group surfaced only intermittently. Predictably, the studio-fabricated songs which have brought them their recent and greatest success worked least well. I'm So Excited was actually tepid enthusiasm; Automatic precisely that. Much better was when the band were at their least insistent and bothersome, and the sisters had nothing else to do but sing, plotting the fine melodic lines of *Fire*, pitting their voices in call-and-response and the relaxed *I Need You*, and shouting exuberantly *Biano Biano* and rattling tambourine on *I'm So Happy*.

## Colin Shearman reports on the opening of Britain's American Festival

### Raising a star studded banner

DALLAS doesn't just mean JR. It means a symphony orchestra. Such shifts in perception are what the American Festival, the biggest selection of US arts and entertainment ever seen in Britain, is all about.

If we have any definable aim in making the festival as broad as we have, says the programme director Steve Rogers, "it is just to say America ain't what you think it is. What you think it is, it's an awful lot more."

The festival is intended as a response to Britain Salutes New York which, in 1963, gave New Yorkers a chance to salute British culture.

Over 100 events will run concurrently in London, Glasgow and Cardiff. There's music at the Festival Hall from the up-and-coming Dal-

las Symphony Orchestra, (also playing at Cardiff), the New York Philharmonia; an exhibition at the ICA of Frank Stella's off-the-wall paintings; visits from two theatre groups and Sadler's Wells plays host to Merce Cunningham.

There's also a chance to see the European premiere at the Place of Cunningham's star pupil, Margaret Jenkins. A New York management agency, Solid State, are also sending over the best of their young dance, and video artists under the broad title, "A Bite Of The Big Apple."

Also scattered around the country will be black story-teller Jackie Torrence, the jazz-based Joel Hall Dancers, graffiti artist Lee Quinones — who made his repu-

tation dubbing the New York subway — and a massive exhibition of Red Indian and Eskimo crafts during which sculptor Nathan Jackson will be carving an authentic cedar wood totem pole.

For anyone wondering where to start, the big photography exhibition at the British American Images 1945-80, could easily double up as a background for the entire festival. The 400 pictures have a fairly broad sweep geographically and historically. They also ask many of the obsessive American questions about The Dream and the search for individual identity. Elliott Erwitt's ironic portrait, for instance, of four bewildered women hanging about a Pasadena Lost Persons Area — as do lots of the other events.

But do you need a festival to bring over such well-known stars as Merce Cunningham? "No you don't," admits Steve Rogers. "But the advantage comes to Britain all the time from America and our aim is to show that there are lots of other things which no one is bothering about."

But the organisers didn't, in any case, have a great deal of choice in the matter. The festival is almost entirely privately funded and,

although the organisers — the non-profit making British American Arts Association — have raised a record £600,000, very few of the sponsors were willing to support events that were at all experimental or controversial.

They did receive a little public money from the Visiting Arts Unit to help with "difficult" programming but, again in keeping with the spirit of the festival, used it to finance important work which is difficult to sponsor, such as Wisdom Bridge Theatre's highly controversial indictment of the American judicial system, *In The Belly Of The Beast*, based on Jack Abbott's prison letters to Norman Mailer.

The skill with which the Festival has raised money for groups like Wisdom Bridge, however, shouldn't be allowed to disguise what a genuinely under-funded area the imported arts are. The only public fund, the Visiting Arts Unit, jointly supported by the Arts Council and British Council, has a budget of just £84,000 a year — about the cost of one project at Sadler's Wells.

As a result, most visiting artists, including some booked for this festival, are often performing more or less for their supper and a night in a back street hotel.



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Princess Elizabeth of Toro and Kirsty Lindsay in 'Sheena'; lollipop message in 'A Love in Germany'; Jeff Bridges in 'Starman'.

Derek Malcolm reviews John Carpenter's sci-fi thriller, Starman, Wajda's A Love in Germany and the other releases

## The lover from another planet

JOHN CARPENTER, a filmmaker who seems resolutely contemporary in tone while basing his work on a fashionably roseate view of Hollywood's past, hasn't exactly covered himself in glory after the splendid star of Dark Star and Assault on Precinct 13. Starman (Leicester Square Theatre, PG) represents a partial return to form.

The film presents him with a number of problems. Being one third a horror thriller, which should suit him, one third science fiction, which is in character too, and one third romance, which could have been a problem. Carpenter doesn't very often seem in love with his characters, which makes it difficult when they fall in love with each other.

Strangely, though, it's the romance which comes off best in this picture, thanks largely to one of Jeff Bridges' best performances and Karen Allen's most natural portrait yet. These two carry the picture which might otherwise seem too like an amalgam of Close Encounters and ET to be worth trying.

Bridges is an alien from outer space who gets stranded

in Wisconsin, and then discovers he has three days to travel 2,000 miles to Arizona, where his spaceship can pick him up. His method of survival is to clone the husband of a pretty Wisconsin girl, and then learn the speech and more of what for him is a very strange world.

The girl, however, gets suspicious but gradually discovers he's not a threat and falls in love with him. The two drive across America towards a rendezvous with the mother ship which both begin to dread since it must mean parting for good.

The whole film, though at first depending on the frightened woman's gradual discovery that her husband apparently isn't dead and then that what looks like him actually isn't, later exists solely on the humanisation of the alien. And with these actors, both tricks work.

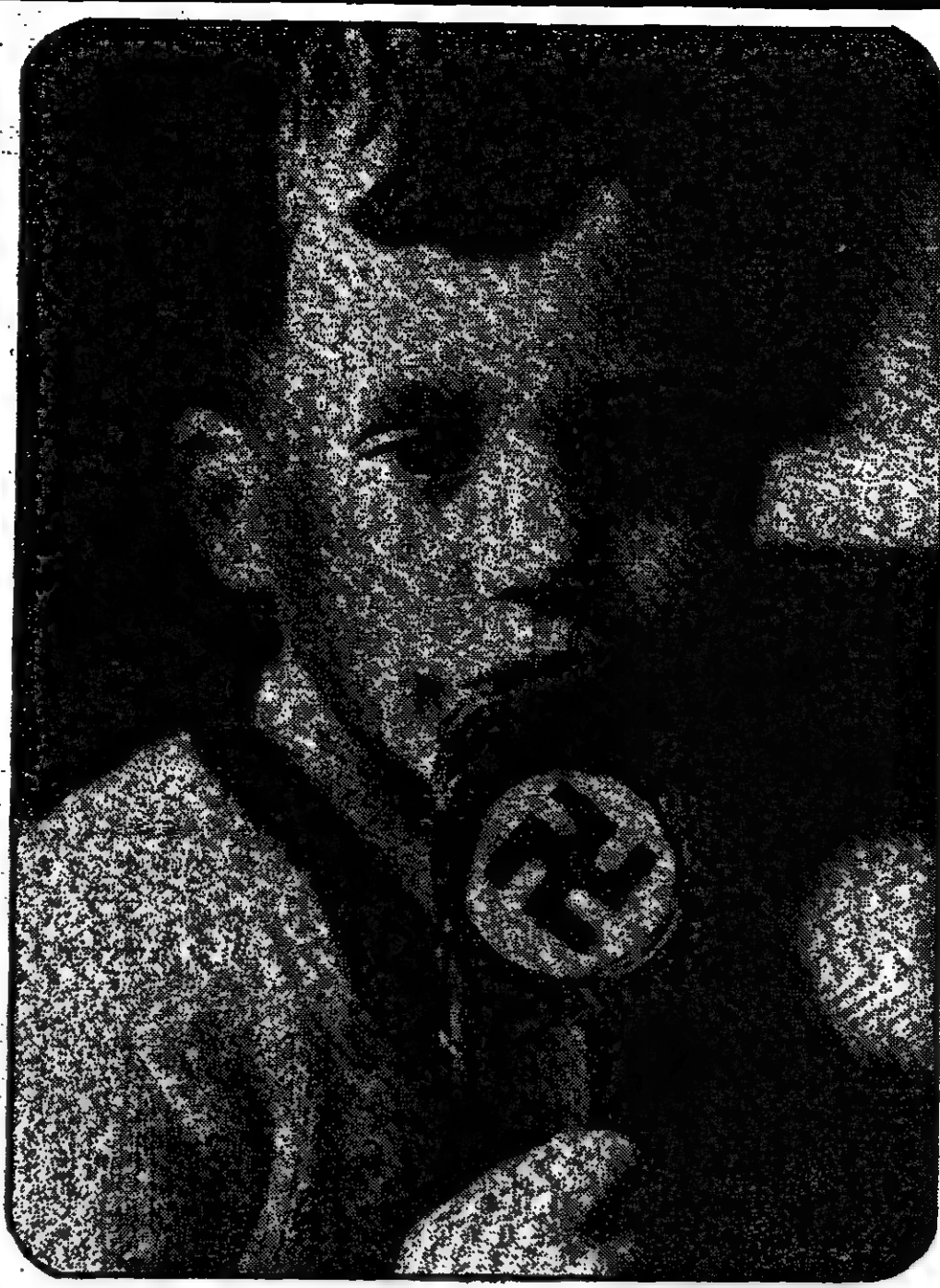
Otherwise, after a fine opening, which has the Voyager II space probe wending its way through the galaxy to the strains of "I Can't Get No Satisfaction," the science fiction elements are handled in an oddly lack-lustre fashion, and that includes the

Close Encounters-like finale. In truth, it would be no more than a passable film without Bridges and Allen, and particularly the former. He is a very good actor indeed, and it's nice to see him injecting a little tenderness into the Carpenter canon.

Andrzej Wajda's A Love in Germany (Chelsea, and Camden Plaza, 15) is the second of three films he was commissioned by Gaumont, the French company, to make outside Poland. The first was Danton, the third will be an adaptation of Dostoevsky's The Possessed.

Based on a Rolf Hochhuth novel, it pares the book down into a straightforward commentary of how the ordinary people of Germany abetted by bureaucracy, laid the foundations for, and supported, the Nazi regime's excesses. Or rather, how the authorities were able to feed very profitably on petty bourgeois mentalities.

A stranger and his 16-year-old son arrive in the village of Brombach near the Swiss border. The older man is trying to find out what happened during the war, when a Polish POW was hanged illegally for his association with the wife of a soldier at the



front. He is met with silence and hostility.

When the film returns to the past, we discover that the whole village got to know of the affair and someone told the Gestapo, who failed to get the greengrocer's wife to renounce her love or to persuade the POW to become an honorary Aryan and defuse the situation. What they also failed to do was to force another Polish detainee to hang the man himself.

The film casts Hanna Schygulla, the German actress of Polish descent, as the lovely woman and that is perhaps its worst mistake. That

she gives an intense, emotional performance there is no doubt. But it tends to over-balance everything else, so that Piotr Lyjak as her lover and even Daniel Olbrychski as the fellow Pole who won't execute him almost disappear within her busy, slightly over-bearing shadow.

The story is based on fact, and Wajda's meticulous recreation of the period is everywhere apparent. But the grim inevitability of the tragedy, which someone like Fassbinder might have enlivened with another of his lessons on "everyday fascism," is treated with a heavier, less convincing hand by

Wajda. Hochhuth's lesson is rammed home too hard to make many subtle points. Funny Dirty Little War (ICA Cinema, 15) is by the Argentine director, Hector Olivera, who continued to work during the military dictatorship though openly opposed to it and to the excesses of Peronism which led to its institution. It was a brave movie to make, coming out as it did just before the recent elections, and was a popular winner of the Silver Bear at the Berlin Festival last year.

Brave, and far from grim since Olivera goes for black farce as he lays before us the splits in the Peronist move-



ment before the military took over. A municipal delegate in a small township is accused of political deviationism, attempts to defend himself, and finds the whole community engulfed in partisan violence.

Irony, observational comedy grows into near slapstick and then into tragedy as the story progresses, showing the thin dividing line between farce and horror. Federico Luppi is superb as the deputy, as if making up for the time lost in his exile during the dictatorship. And Olivera orchestrates his parable with a shrewd sense of its universal as well as national application.

One of the benefits of the collapse of Peronism at the polls was that this sort of film can now be more easily made. We should remember, though, that Olivera, together with Fernando Ayala, his regular producer, led the way with this tigher comedy before it was safe to do so.

Mr Shooter (ICA Children's Cinema, then regional theatres) is the fourth feature from Colin Finbow's Children's Film Unit which

grew out of the Forest Hill School Film Unit where Finbow taught. It is also the best, being an endearing tale of two young runaways from a children's home who befriend an old tramp and sleep rough on the beach.

The tramp is played by Peter Bayliss, the children by Louise Rawlings and Orlando Wells. Each is excellent but the point is that Finbow's young technicians, aged between 11 and 16, have accomplished in a two-week shoot something with a charm and sensitivity many a professional would envy.

John Guillermin's Sheena (Classic, Oxford St and release, PG) has Tanya Roberts as a kind of girl Tarzan. Each is excellent but the point is that Finbow's young technicians, aged between 11 and 16, have accomplished in a two-week shoot something with a charm and sensitivity many a professional would envy.



Mishima on the barricade balcony minutes before committing hara kiri.

## A festival's hara kiri

THE DECISION by organisers of the first Toro International Film Festival to withdraw unless the US-Japanese production, Mishima, seems to have doomed in advance any chance the festival had of respect abroad. The Japanese appear to have feared domestic right-wing threats more than foreign "opprobrium." That was the word chosen in a letter sent recently to Tokyo and signed by 37 leading directors from the US, Europe and Australia.

As an account of the life and violent death of one of Japan's most highly regarded authors, Yukio Mishima, with a Japanese cast and dialogue (foreign sub-titles added), the film was intended primarily for release in Japan, a showing which also seems unlikely now.

Artistic work, reportedly an artistic tour de force by the US director Paul Schrader, will be seen for the first time publicly in competition at Cannes in May. It will be distributed worldwide in the autumn.

The protest letter was organised by the US coproducers, Francis Coppola, director of the award-winning Apocalypse Now, and George Lucas, creator of Star Wars. It called for the cancellation of the screening at next month's festival to be reversed. Among the signatories were Woody Allen, Hal Ashby, Robert Benton, Bernardo Bertolucci, Paul Cox, Sidney Lumet, Louis Malle, Arthur Penn, Sidney Pollack and John Schlesinger.

Mishima committed seppuku (hara kiri) in a general's office he had taken over at a military barracks in Tokyo in 1970 after addressing the troops from a balcony. After plunging the sword into his abdomen, he was beheaded by one of the young men who made up the private army he had trained and outfitted.

Before his gruesome death his eccentricities and flamboyant tastes had prevented his being taken seriously by Japan's right wing, despite his calls for a return to "traditional values" in a modern

Japan he despised. However, his ritualistic, and traditional ending turned him into an ultra-nationalist hero and made him famous abroad.

Mishima's widow Yoko has expressed objections to the screenplay, which she has read, although she has not seen the film. She particularly disliked references to Mishima's bi-sexuality.

Objections from extremists seem to focus on what they believe is the sensational treatment, and the fact that foreigners should have anything to do with a film about their posthumously canonised hero.

Japan's right-wing extremists may be tiny in number, but they can be very dangerous. In the past they have vandalised cinemas showing films they disliked and more seriously, they regard assassination as a fitting response to a defilement of the emperor or Yamato, the old poetic name for Japan.

However, Tom Luddy, one of the co-producers, believes that sufficient security could

## Bart Mills reports on a film banned in Japan and showing in Cannes

be provided. "If the Ku Klux Klan demanded suppression of an American festival's film about blacks, the organisers would call the police, but it is basically a point of principle to resist intimidation. A major artistic film should not be censored by the right wing."

Those who know Japan would rule the XXX comparison too tame for the ultra-nationalist fanatics of Yamato, but the irony for the producers is that the film is sympathetic towards Mishima. Mr Schrader calls it "almost a hagiographic portrait."

The novelist, at one time a candidate for the Nobel prize for literature, is a difficult figure for Westerners to understand. In spite of his quasi-mystical belief in the old values, he was hardly an ascetic. He indulged in modern and Western pleasures. He drank wine and brandy and owned a big motor-cycle and an American car. In the patio of his house he placed a series of fake Italian classical statues.

A weakling as a child, Mishima developed his muscles through body building, and liked to pose for photographs naked or almost naked. He acted as well as wrote, and in one film portrayed the act of seppuku. Both his writing and his life — and death — displayed a sado-erotic tendencies.

The film takes the view, shared by other Mishima critics, that he was not so much political but an artist who confused his romantically traditional ideas with his own life, dramatising it as a work of art in a way which could be traced in his last books. He fitted into the bushido yodo samurai ethic in which pen and sword are a dichotomy.

Sterner critics believe that, however deluded, Mishima was serious about his politics. They recall that the barracks speech was at the Eastern Military Headquarters, urging an uprising. Mishima would have felt at home among the fascists who took over pre-war Japan, these critics say.

## BRIEFING

### Best films

Carmen (Lumiere): Francesco Rosi's high, wide and handsome version of the Bizet, with Julie Migenes Johnson as a superb Carmen. The Cotton Club (Odeon, Leicester Square): Entertaining re-run of The Godfather plus musical wings. Coppola's latest epic has huge budget, but small pretensions. The Future of Emily (Screen at the Electric): Helma Sanders-Brahm's first French production starring Brigitte Fossey as film star and guilty mother. Falling in Love (Empire, Screen on the Green): Streep and De Niro as Brief Encounterish New York lovers. Excellent performances, but nothing spectacular. The Times of Harvey Milk (Everyman, Hampstead): Unmissable story of San Francisco's amazing gay councillor, his murder and the aftermath. Ray Boy (Odeon, Kensington etc): Nice Daniel Petrie film about youngster growing up in Nova Scotia, trying not to be a priest. With Liv Ullmann as mum, Kiefer Kutterman, Donald's son, as the boy.

### Best on TV

Loose Connections (Tonight, C4, 9.30): Latterday European road movie made in 1984 by Richard Byrne with feminist Lindsay Duncan and chauvinist Stephen Rea en route together to Munich. The Great Rock 'n' Roll Swindle (Friday, BBC-2, 11.0): Cinema version of Fassbinder's two-part TV drama about Weimar Republic station-master with unfaithful wife. Made in 1976, and powerful stuff. Ringo of Red Gap (Saturday, C4, 1.55): Vintage Leo McCarey comedy, made in 1935 with Charles Laughton as British butler in American West. Judge Priest (Saturday, C4, 3.40): 1934 John Ford, with Will Rogers and very folksy. His Girl Friday (Sunday, C4, 10.15): Classic Hawks comedy, based on The Front Page, and made in 1940 with Cary Grant, Rosalind Russell. Touch of Evil (Sunday, BBC-2, 8.30): 1958 Orson Welles masterpiece, still looking quite extraordinary for its day, or ours. Ringo (Tuesday, BBC-2,

9.0): Wim Wenders' 1983 tribute to Dashiell Hammett, made for Coppola but not for me.

### Special interest

British Film Year, which many are cynical about but which is trying very hard to bring the industry together might profitably step in to adjudicate on a row brewing between London's independent repertory cinemas like the Ritzy, Brixton, and the Rio, Dailton, and some well-known distributors. It is about the programming of comparatively new releases, like Dances With a Stranger, on double bills or with supporting programmes. The distributors are trying to stop this practice, in spite of the fact that they still get their full percentage of takings, as when the main film is playing alone. The independent reps, which achieve much increased attendances with double bills, are upset by what they call "inflexible decisions" not based on much knowledge of their operations. Perhaps a modus vivendi should be worked out, and quickly. Flexibility in programming is a fairly sound rule.

Outside London, where we hope this does not happen, Edinburgh Filmhouse shows the much-neglected Once Upon a Time in America from Sunday for a week, with Blood Simple, not neglected, in the main theatre till then. Wetherby shows at the Arts Cinema, Cambridge, till Saturday and is then replaced by Rosi's Carmen, and Vincent Ward's What's New, Zealand. On Saturday, there is a special performance of Ickikawa's Fires on the Plain. The Rendezvous Cinema at The Hornpote Centre, Portsmouth, shows Bob Swaim's popular La Balance tonight and tomorrow. At present, the theatre operates twice a week but will extend to six days in the latter half of the year, owing to much increased attendances.

### Derek Malcolm

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"CINEMA is no longer a medium for prose," declares Mamoun Hassan, stretching out on the sofa in the vast, overblown lounge of Liverpool's Adelphi Hotel. "We see at home. Cinema has to be a medium for poetry."

The muse that has brought the former head of the government-aided National Film Finance Corporation to the embattled north-west of England is a feature film, his first as producer. Appropriately called No Surrender, it's an ambitious, abrasive, painful comedy written by Alan Bleasdale, the Liverpool playwright whose 1982 series The Boys From The Black Stuff rewrote the agenda for television drama.

"That was an extraordinary, imaginative series, a comedy about unemployment that had deep sadness and anger," continues Hassan. "But the subject was straightforward. The basis of this film is more abstract. It's very funny, very ebullient, tumultuous, exuberant but the subtext is something beyond social conditions."

Twenty-four miles away, on a converted badminton court outside Warrington, director Peter Smith is almost finishing his eight-week shoot. Low-key and genial, he doesn't look like a man who's spent the last few weeks, including several all-nighters, framing shots that include as many as 300 extras.

The location has been brilliantly transformed by designer Andrew Mollo into the Charleston Club — "Blackpool's answer to Las Vegas," in Bleasdale's very description. For plot reasons too complex to rehearse, a triple booking has occurred on New Year's Eve. Some of the customers are in fancy dress, some are Catholics, some are Protestants, most of them are mutinous and all of them are elderly. You figure

W. Stephen Gilbert joins an old trouper's night out on the set of Alan Bleasdale's new film

## Having a ball on the Mersey

Alan Bleasdale: celebration of ten years in the business — picture by Don McPhee

Smith and Hassan must be very, very keen on the script even to contemplate such an undertaking. "Three or four ideas have come together for this film," Bleasdale explains. "One of them is the ancient rivalry between Protestants and Catholics which erupted in Liverpool when my Mum and Dad were growing up in the 1920s. I wondered what had happened to those people who, when they were 15 or 18, tried to break each other's heads open. I wondered what would happen if the two kings of the times from the Thirties, who were renowned street fighters, met in their 60s, still loathing and despising each other's beliefs."

Something that sparked Bleasdale's imagination was a visit to a club on pensioners' night. "You do forget the energy and passion and excitement of people are still capable of. They were dancing the night away, having a ball." He was reminded of the days when his mother-in-law ran a council old people's home. "I'd go there

often because she's a lovely woman. There'd be a few of the old people slouching by the fire drinking gin into the night but there were many, many more who were bouncing with vigour and life and being like children, telling dirty jokes in a most shocked manner."

Peopling the shoot are dozens of veterans from variety and the club circuit. Other showbiz stalwarts play the group referred to as "the infirm," earning a mound of applause on the set for their entrance and gleeful that so many of the crew thought they were really mentally ill. As well as the hundreds of extras, the £2 million-plus budget is eked out across 57 speaking parts.

Peter Smith makes no secret of the need to direct material as explosive as this in a very disciplined way. "Alan calls it a deadpan farce," he explains. "What I do is to make it realistic. The comedy that is there each night in the rushes is nothing to do with me. It's in the lines

and the situations. When a group of elderly people in fancy dress trot up to a hefty bouncer in the doorway of a seedy club, I'm playing it as straight and as economical as possible."

Bleasdale concurs. One of his earliest television plays was cast partly with what he calls "natural Liverpool actors" and partly with "im-

ports who took one look at it and played it as Carry On Up The Scummers. I soon learned that you can't teach that drivelness. Bernard Hill has got it instinctively, even though he's from Manchester." Hill, made famous playing Yossier in Boys From The Black Stuff, is the aforementioned "heavy bouncer" in No Surrender.

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## The old man doesn't understand

Four-fifths of Mr Reagan's address to the European Parliament yesterday was awed ceremony, and even in total it did not deserve the walk-out and the strong silence on the benches of the Left. The purpose of his reception was to recall the defeat of fascism. In that and in the post-war reconstruction and defence of western Europe, the help of the United States was and has been crucial. When Mr Reagan turned to the incipient conflict of today, however, a conspicuous hole appeared in his eloquence. He has lost interest, if he ever had an interest, in arms control as commonly understood and seeks only a live-and-let-live arrangement with the Soviet Union until such time as technology, as applied to Star Wars, provides a new fix for the world's safety. He endorsed the expansion of the British and French nuclear systems as though these things do not matter any more, and illustrated his fatigue with the subject of arms reduction by a reference to the new Soviet SS-24 missiles—“clearly designed to strike first”—which have the potential “to avoid detection, monitoring, or arms control verification.” These weapons appear to correspond to the American MX missile, but which is the chicken and which the egg is not likely to be agreed at Geneva.

The four ideas he put to the Russians have either been publicly aired before or offered through diplomatic channels. None of them is worthless, and together they are designed to approach a system of crisis management. For reasons which remain opaque to the average western observer but are presumably held important in Moscow, the Warsaw Pact wants to start this stage of confidence-building proceedings by a declaration on the non-use of force. Although this must seem both innocuous and superfluous, since we have all signed it at least twice already in the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, the instinct should be to let them have it if it makes them any happier. Mr Reagan has offered it only in exchange for specific checks on the ground proposed by Nato. Russian generals are

certainly less willing than western ones to exchange information and invite teams of expert and binoculared foreigners to watch their manoeuvres. Perhaps they feel in their bones that c'est magnifique mais ce n'est pas la guerre. Therefore, Mr Reagan reasons, they need some incentive. Nothing would be lost by giving the incentive first and seeing what happens.

But the Russian generals are a force to be reckoned with, and since it is the first article of Russian military philosophy that you don't depend on the actions of the other side for your security the momentum behind arms control may be no stronger on the Soviet side than it now is in the United States. That is why Mr Reagan has cast around for some means of breaking the deadlock or ending the spiral. That the chosen method is liable to make relations more difficult, not less, and to eat away resources and ingenuity which could be much better applied, is everyone's profound misfortune. The old man believes he is doing something for peace, and that's the tragedy of it all.

## Beyond the borderline

Given that only 21 of the 395 Conservatives in the Commons sit for Scottish constituencies, it is at first sight odd that so much Westminster attention is focussed this week on the Scottish Tory conference at Perth. The political impact of the Government's troubles on southern England (where the Tories hold 66 out of 68 seats) or central and eastern England (62 Tories out of 65 seats) is far more significant in Central Office or Cabinet calculations. So why, save in terms of Scottish sensibilities, are political eyes so fixed on Perth? Partly, it is because the carousel of party conferences dictates that Scottish Tories shall have their own annual gathering, something which East Anglian Tories, for example, are denied. Partly, it is because a much-fancied candidate for promotion in Mrs Thatcher's autumn reshuffle, the Scottish Secretary, George Younger, faces his toughest test in the six years he has held the job. But mostly it is because that test, over the local rating system, is of much wider interest to all Conservative MPs. Rates reform is the issue which the Tory Party, and in particular its leader, cannot let alone. It is an issue which, as the Scottish Tories are

painfully aware, the Government has failed to solve to its supporters' satisfaction. And the political costs of that failure, even in Labour dominated Scotland, are blindingly apparent to all Tory MPs, not just to those from north of the Tweed.

Luckily for the Conservatives, there were no local elections in Scotland this year. But local by-elections have for some months been hinting at an erosion of Tory support which is emphatically confirmed in a series of Mori polls published this week in The Scotsman. The polls show Conservative support trailing at 22 per cent, compared with Labour 47 per cent, the SDP-Liberal Alliance 18, and the Scottish Nationalists 13. On these figures, most of the Scottish Tory MPs (including Mr Younger himself in Ayr) would be defeated at a general election. Forecasts of a Tory wipe-out in Scotland are part of the stock-in-trade of mid-term political speculation, however. The Tories touched as low as 17 per cent in a November 1981 poll, and recovered to take 28 per cent of the Scottish vote in May 1983. So it would be foolish to pronounce a premature obituary. Yet the Mori polls have a sombre underlying message for Mr Younger and the Cabinet. On the key issue of unemployment, only 14 per cent of Tory supporters think the Government is doing a good job. Three quarters of all Scots think it is handling local government finance badly, and only 13 per cent think that the rates system is fair and should remain unchanged. So, with rates reform still high on the Government agenda, these findings have a message across the whole nation, not just Scotland.

Mr Younger has fought Scotland's corner in Cabinet for six years with considerable skill, as even his opponents would acknowledge. The Ravenscraig steelworks, the Scott Lithgow shipyard, and Prestwick airport have all survived when, if they were in England, they would probably have been axed. And even in the rates row, Mr Younger has managed to wrinkle £8.6 million worth of relief from the Treasury for Scotland's domestic ratepayers. But whether he will bring similar or sufficient balm on commercial rate relief to Perth today is another matter. Mr Younger's political luck, which is already under pressure from the Scottish teachers' dispute, could be running out. And that is precisely why the Scottish Secretary is leading the pressure on Mrs

Thatcher to follow her own gut instincts on rates reform nationally, by reopening the Cabinet discussion on alternative funding proposals, including a possible residential poll tax. Even there, however, the timetable for change is becoming desperately tight. With social security changes and gas privatisation already booked in the prime time slots for parliamentary passage in 1985-6, rates reform, even if it can be agreed among ministers, might fall off the end of the pier if a general election is called in the 1986-7 session. And the message from the Mori polls is that two years may not be sufficient in which to win the voters' hearts and minds on rates anyway. None of the alternatives to the present system commands clear public support, they find. So Mr Younger could find himself inextricably wedged between two stools: frustration at the failure to reform and anger at the size of the existing rates demands.

## Ruling out diversity

Set aside the media hype. Make no obeisance before the shrine of the cult of personality. The collective leadership of the National Union of Mineworkers has constructed its vision of the next few years, and a somewhat depressing scenario it is. In that scenario, the harsh and unyielding attitudes adopted by the Coal Board since the collapse of the strike have not been short-sighted gloating of a vindictive management. It is all part of a carefully orchestrated plan. On this interpretation the object of the Board and the Government is to fragment and regionalise the once-national industry to produce a series of profit (and loss) centres. At which point the industry will be ready for partial privatisation. The profitable pits and the profitable areas (like Notts) will be flogged off. The “un-economic” pits will either be starved of investment and run down or unilaterally shut down. It is imperative to this strategy, so the interpretation of the NUM leadership runs, that the Board, having first weakened the union, should now marginalise and finally fracture it. To that end, Mr Ian MacGregor and his new team of hard men will exploit ruthlessly the divisions within the uniquely federal union which were revealed so dramatically during the strike. In context the collective leadership of the NUM takes the view that the first

imperative is to rebuild the unity of the union. And that, in turn, makes it all the more difficult to understand the determination with which the leadership is pushing the rule changes circulated to the membership in recent weeks. For those rule changes would, over time, alter the whole character of the NUM. They are about shifting the balance of power from a federal structure to a national union. They are about strengthening the powers of the presidency at the expense of the regional leadership. They are about allowing the national executive committee to indemnify local officials who break the law in order to impose the will of the central leadership upon officials elected to represent the interests of areas memberships. They are about national authority talking area committees to call strikes against the will of their area members.

Even so those rule changes do not of themselves necessarily mean the establishment of a highly-knit, politically motivated union, replacing the federal structure which has survived, bloody but unbowed, the most important strike since 1926. In a neutral context it would be possible to defend every one of the changes — as the NUM general secretary, Mr Peter Heathfield, has done in his circular to the union's regions. But the context is far from neutral and Messrs Heathfield and Scargill should surely recognise as much. That is why the traditionally militant South Wales miners are as upset as the “working miners” of Notts or Derbyshire.

It was left to the Nottinghamshire area to seek legal advice on the changes and it is that summation which makes the most disturbing reading. “The recent dispute inevitably looms large in the thoughts of all members of the union and their reaction to it is likely to affect their reaction to the rule changes.” Of course — and all credit to Mr Heathfield for being bold enough to point it out — it will be years before the centre is strong enough to impose its will upon the areas — whatever the rule changes. In which case one is forced back upon the fundamental argument. Given the diverse will these largely symbolic rule changes are engendering, why not shelve them in the interests of the unity which the collective leadership of the NUM claims is imperative to the survival of a national industry?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Lost in the translation

Sir, — Antony Easthope in offering to raise “an important issue of principle as well as one of fact” (Letters, May 2) revealingly creates an historical fiction to serve a polemical purpose.

To put the record a little straighter, the theme of the conference at Stratford-upon-Avon in 1984 was “Shakespeare and History”, and its main programme included papers from Alan Sinfield (joint editor of Political Shakespeare) and Richard Altick (author of *Puritanism and the Victorians*) (a more radical creator of fresh contexts of Shakespearean study). The ancillary programme was arranged in response to a request for special late-afternoon seminars, and several of the speakers had contributed papers to the conference on other occasions. They included Robert Weimann, the leading East German Shakespearean scholar.

Whatever misgivings the committee may have had about introducing ancillary meetings may well be strengthened by the readiness of the Wall Street Journal and Mr Easthope to misrepresent the conference (in 1986) will be focused on “Current Approaches to Shakespeare”, and conclusions, some of them as unsettling as Shakespeare's will continue to be energetically expressed.

As Marianne reminded us, “tradition” and “treason” are from the same root. — Yours faithfully, (Prof) Philip Brockbank, The Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham.

### Faint hopes of Punjabi peace

Sir, — You report (April 30) that Sikh leaders of the Khalistan Party have refused to resume any talks with the Indian government about settlement of the Punjab crisis until the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, accepts three new demands. These demands include the scrapping of the special courts set up in 1983 to provide speedy justice to those accused of specific crimes, compensation for riot victims, and reinstatement of army deserters.

The central government has of course already accepted unilaterally three of the seven pre-conditions laid down previously by the Akali leaders. These include the setting up of a judicial inquiry into the Delhi riots following Indira Gandhi's assassination, the lifting of the ban on the All India Sikh Students Federation

## How Labour could make the poor just a teeny bit richer

Sir, — This morning the Cabinet is considering further steps to reduce rights to pensions and other state benefits. Like most commentators, Mr Ian Aitken (May 6) dutifully recites the Government's case, but totally fails to present even in barest outline the powerful case for an alternative strategy. He states that the principle of universality may have to be abandoned, even under Labour, and that new versions of means-testing may be inevitable. Yet the evidence for the exact opposite is compelling.

The market has always failed to provide decent pensions, sickness insurance and other forms of social security, just as it has failed to provide adequate standards and coverage of health care, education and other social services. Private social security is inequitable and thoroughly inefficient. Pensions decline in value during payment; widows are treated badly; contributors have rights unreasonably withdrawn if they change jobs; and administrative overheads are several times as high as the equivalent cost of National Insurance.

The Government's statistics provide eloquent testimony for these statements. Administrative waste, poor entitlement, risk of poverty — and not only under-served — are long-established features of the private sector, as Beveridge argued 40 years ago. Britain spends far less on cash benefits and far more in tax allowances than in

countries at a comparable stage of economic development. The great majority of European countries spend considerably more on social security than we do. Like West Germany — having substantial earnings-related pension schemes which provide higher incomes for their elderly population and are at least in tune with the need for job mobility in a productive economy. The cost of our tax allowances was £59 billion in 1983-84 and of social security £36 billion.

In the mid-1970s the Government was wise enough to shift a little of the burden to the later through the withdrawal of child tax allowances and substitution of child benefit. This simultaneously eased the poverty of families and the inequality between earners with and without dependent children. Michael Meacher, Opposition Social Services spokesman, advocates this strategy because it makes more efficient use of existing resources without adding to tax rates. One example: withdrawal of the married man's tax allowance and the substitution of tax benefits for women and children and disabled people; another is the reduction of tax on mortgage interest so that young home-buyers and fam-

ilies with dependants may get more support for their housing costs. This is efficient redistribution on the basis of universality. The rich have been getting richer and the poor poorer since 1979, as official statistics on the distribution of earnings, social security benefits, employment, fringe benefits, payment of tax and disposable income all testify. In 1983, according to economic trends, the poorest 10 per cent received £6 billion and the richest 10 per cent £50 billion in income after tax.

It takes only simple arithmetic to conclude that the resources of the rich could be squeezed to double the income of the poor without plunging them into penury. If the Labour Party dared to adopt such a mildly reformist strategy with a positive programme for jobs and the economy, it could make the welfare state less of a sham than it is. — (Prof) Peter Townsend, 40 Berkeley Square, Bristol.

Sir, — Ian Aitken offers us (May 6) yet another oversimplified diagnosis of the problems of the welfare state.

What is this Beveridge legacy he uses to condemn Universalistic benefits have never been available for the support of most single-parent families. They are no longer meaningful elements in the support of the unemployed or the short-term sick. The only two remaining important universalistic benefits are child benefits and pensions.

The kind of reverse income tax that Ian Aitken advocates would need to have within it a provision to take into account the costs of children. The form that would be likely to take would be not so very different from our existing scheme: the guarantee of a sum of money for each family before income tax starts to bite.

But perhaps it is the existing pension provisions which Mr Aitken regards as too generous. The arguments about the future development of our pension scheme are, of course, complex. But Mr Aitken's argument appears to relate to the present. If so, he is taking a stance which even the most right-wing Conservative politician is reluctant to take.

In spite of her socially complex parts of our welfare state are the means-tested benefit systems, not the universalistic systems. Reverse income tax proposals which purport to deal with the problems of universalism

generally reveal, on close scrutiny, that their adaptation to the real world involves considerable administrative complexity. Ian Aitken's ill-controlled show-off analogy is appalling. Would that the problems of the welfare state were, however, so simple. — Yours faithfully, Michael Hill, School for Advanced Urban Studies, University of Bristol.

Sir, — Ian Aitken's assessment of Norman Fowler suggests a possible taxonomy of spending ministers in their relations with the Chancellor. First we have those ministers who propose cuts in their own budgets and are rewarded with bigger budgets (eg Mr Heseline: Defence). Second, we have those who protest loudly against big cuts and are rewarded with slightly smaller ones (Fowler: Social Services). Finally, we have those who only manage a whimper and endure the biggest cuts of all (Jenkins: Housing). — Yours, John Perry, 8 Alexandra Road, Leicester.

Sir, — Your report (May 3) that the Government plans to shorten the period for consultation over its pro-

posals to alter the social security system — and that it may even dispense with consultation altogether on some of them — makes a mockery of the “public debate” that it claimed to want about the future of the welfare state. It is no excuse to say that the public “need not be consulted twice” because it was invited last year to give evidence to the social security reviews. As many groups who gave evidence pointed out at that time, the deadline for submissions was very tight, and the original consultation documents were vague in the extreme.

It has since become apparent that the Government is considering changes to benefits — such as unemployment benefits — not even listed as being under scrutiny in the reviews. It is also evident from your report of disagreements within the Cabinet itself over the suggested changes, that the Government's proposals are controversial, to say the least. Perhaps this is why the Government wants to rush through decisions before the full implications can sink in, rather than allowing a period for informed debate and proper public consultation? — Ian Bennett, Child Poverty Action Group, London WC2.

Sir, — As one of many GPs who have worked closely with Mrs Wendy Savage, I am appalled at her suspension for alleged malpractice from her work as consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at the London Hospital, Mile End (Guardian, May 4).

I have the highest regard for her clinical standards, diligence and dedication to her work and patients. She brings honesty, humanity and vision to her work. It is this humanity that leads her to a more woman-centred approach to obstetrics. I hope for her early reinstatement. We are already feeling her loss. She is one of a rare breed. — Yours sincerely, (Dr) Liz Hodggets, 55 St Stephen's Road, London E3.

Sir, — The National Childbirth Trust supports the call from local GPs in Tower Hamlets for the reinstatement of Mrs Wendy Savage. We have not been able to discover why the authorities suspended her. Her perinatal mortality rates are not different from the other consultants in the district. The women of that area are bewildered and distressed at being deprived of their obstetrician, the only one to have worked outside the hospital in local clinics, and who used her consultant skills to give shared care with local GPs.

The consumers' view needs to be heard. — Yours faithfully, Philippa J. Micklethwait, The National Childbirth Trust, London, W2.

A wet March, without its usual drying winds, provided further encouragement. I hear that in the clay woods of Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire oxtails burgeoned in April, and friends have remarked on some exceptional displays of tulips in some areas, including the racecourse at Huntingdon. It would seem that these have responded to climatic encouragement in the same way as our primroses. I think it not unlikely that many of our wild orchids will have shared in this benefit, so far as seedling establishment has been concerned, but this will become apparent only some years hence when they come into bloom. — E. A. ELLIS.

On my bike!

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Trucks with crates of bottles of this hypothetical drink — aside from these small details — look like Mr. Thatcher really think that the country's economic difficulties can be solved by setting up small businesses to take in each other's washing? In spite of her admiration for the way Mr Reagan says he has revived the American economy, his actual solution has been Keynesian deficit financing on an unprecedented

scale, which Mrs T. either does not recognise or pretends to ignore. It would seem that her little attitude towards Britain's unemployed is the same as that expressed by her other incarnation in “Anyone for Denis?”, a few years ago. — Remember! No matter what happens, it's all your fault! — J. F. T. Spencer, Goldsmiths College, University of London.

A wet March, without its usual drying winds, provided further encouragement. I hear that in the clay woods of Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire oxtails burgeoned in April, and friends have remarked on some exceptional displays of tulips in some areas, including the racecourse at Huntingdon. It would seem that these have responded to climatic encouragement in the same way as our primroses. I think it not unlikely that many of our wild orchids will have shared in this benefit, so far as seedling establishment has been concerned, but this will become apparent only some years hence when they come into bloom. — E. A. ELLIS.

### Miscellany at large

Sir, — Although it might help the British Board of Film Censors to present a more “democratic” face in these “freedom-loving times” by resuming itself as the British Board of Film Classification, it is a shabby and dishonest debasement of the English language so to do. Unless its members abandon their right to make cuts before classification, or to withhold classification altogether, then censors they are and censors they remain.

One can hardly be surprised at the general apathy about their activities since they are at pains to keep details from public scrutiny. Until they issue monthly press releases in which details of their cuts and prohibitions are revealed, little real debate on their role can begin. — Yours sincerely, Dave Godin, Hesley, Shfield.

Sir, — The successful visit to the UK of Mr Gorbachev accompanied by his daughter Irina, has put some of the more paranoid press barons missed an opportunity to warn of this latest rather subtle Soviet attempt to soften us up, or is it merely that the Russians feel under pressure from the Princess of Wales? — P. M. Quinn, Solihull, West Midlands.

Sir, — I read Dr Grimes's letter “Nuisance value of private health cheats” (May 6) with some dismay. What upsets me most is his attempt to exculpate the offenders by blaming those least able to defend themselves: the hospital administration and nursing staff.

It was always my clear understanding for notifying the health authority when a private patient was being admitted lay fairly and squarely with the consultant attending the admission. — Yours faithfully, (Dr) R. Tepper, Prestwich, Manchester.

Sir, — Geoffrey Bindman (Agenda, April 28) is right to draw attention to the system which seeks to ensure high earnings for barristers at the consumer's expense and at a very substantial cost to the public purse. I am surprised, however, that Mr Bindman makes no reference to one of the major contributing factors to the high cost of litigation in this country: the two-tier system whereby one profession prepares a case and another presents it.

Even those who favour the barrister-solicitor split do not argue that this reduces legal costs. Furthermore by allowing solicitors a right of audience in the higher courts this would go some way to increasing competition which, Mr Bindman correctly points out, would reduce legal costs. — Yours faithfully, J. H. Pratt, The Law Society, Young Solicitors Group, London WC2.

### Low-tech among the deciders

Sir, — The defence white paper illustrates how the technology used in government decision-making continues to lag behind the technological options facing the Government. It is ironic that policy-makers do not use available decision advice technology like the budget priority system to make difficult choices between competing bi-tech priorities in the armed services and to handle financial cutbacks rationally.

This is particularly pertinent in view of findings from our recent research which indicates that policy-makers' decisions on the allocations of scarce resources tend to contradict their expressed priorities and policies unless systematically checked for reliability and consistency. — Yours sincerely, I. A. Cole, Institute of Organisation and Social Studies, Brunel University.



### Making scientific concerns clearer to the public, and public concerns clearer to the scientist

Anthony Tucker considers a problem of communication.

THERE IS a sudden upsurge of interest among scientists and scientific institutions, in the complex problems of communicating science to the public. Whether this arises primarily from a sense, among scientists, of being grossly misrepresented in a national public image, or from a realization that better government support might stem from better understanding, or from a sense of social and public duty, to ensure that the public at large is kept informed rather than misinformed about the scientific elements embedded in the issues that we face as a nation, is not really of importance. The important aspect, made clear in a recent joint public meeting organised by the Royal Society and the British Association, is that scientists and scientific institutions are not simply concerned but are doing something about it.

Some time ago the Royal Society set up a committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Walter Bodmer (Research Director, Imperial Cancer Research Fund) and comprising a cluster of eminent scientists and non-scientists, to examine the whole problem of public understanding of science. To the cynics of course, recognising this as an

Establishment venture, the committee might be interpreted as an investigation of possible ways of persuading the public to accept the prevailing views of Establishment scientists. To accept, for example, the recent high level announcement that in relation to smoking asbestos is—after all—not too bad for you, or that it is reasonable (as well as economic) to have regulatory criteria which allow small incremental doses of radiation to be dismissed as “insignificant” it was, if memory is correct, the New York Times which interpreted such proposals in the US as “the Government opting for a little more cancer” although, to be exact, this view related less to regulatory pro-

cedures in general than to the permissive attitude of the protection bodies to the recycling of radioactive wastes. The New York Times interpretation, however, reflects better the body of assembled scientific fact than does the mounding of regulatory procedure to a form that is practical and industrially convenient. In such areas as this scientists wander off their home ground and have neither more nor less clout than any other member of the public. But if, by playing with numbers, they appear to support a view which goes against common sense, then they end up by discrediting science. The public is only too well aware that their views on such issues will, in general, be shaped to avoid displeasing

their masters. Whistle blowers are rare, brave but savagely punished in our society. They are also perceived as heroes, which is no more than proper although it does not pay the rates. Scientific hypotheses and heroes, sadly, are equally ephemeral. This, however, is barely even tangential to the circle of concern being drawn by the Royal Society committee, the working groups of the British Association focused on education and technology, or by a much smaller body, the steering committee of the Media Resource Service which is to be set up by the CIBA Foundation before the end of the year. (As a member I hereby declare an interest.)

The concern of all these groups, which are dominantly academic (those who think that the CIBA Foundation is something to do with drugs are about as far wrong as those who believe the Nuffield Foundation exists to promote motor cars), is the levelling of public understanding with accurate science wherever this is relevant. Directly and indirectly this implies misgivings about the general level of education in science and mathematics, about distortion of technological fact or possibility in public debate, about the lean variability of the scientific content in the media and, above all, about the inadequacy of sound unbiased reference sources to which the public and the media can turn when the need arises.

That is one side of the coin. The other, no less important, is that scientists often have difficulty communicating their science to non-scientists and that they are also—which may be one of the keys to the issue whose importance has yet to be properly understood—often unable to communicate clearly on issues outside their highly focused specialities and sometimes very naive (used in its kindest sense) about political, social and technological concerns. The fact seems to be that, just as there is an urgent and obvious need to broaden non-scientific training so that it embraces fundamental aspects of science and mathematics, there is an obvious (some would say desperate) need to

broaden scientific training to the arts and to the arts of communication. We are all, in a sense, children of yesterday's educational inadequacies but, in a world that has become awesomely technological, the inability to communicate, whether accurate science or deeply seated misgivings, may bring society to its knees and stunt every possibility that is why, whatever they achieve, the efforts of the Royal Society Committee, the British Association, the CIBA Foundation and a host of others—such as the museums—are more important than they might seem. For if their purposes were achieved then the cynicism and the critical faculties of society would be sharpened, not disarmed.



The problem is not confined to the dustbowl of America... down in Somerset substantial quantities of fertile soil are suffering a similar fate.

## The disappearing planet

By the end of the century there will be one third less topsoil per person than there is now. American farms have been shedding it at the rate of 1.7 billion tonnes a year. Malcolm Smith looks at an environmental disaster that is all the worse for being man made — and largely invisible to the untutored eye

WHEN spring ploughing begins in north China, an air sampling station at Mauna Loa in Hawaii can detect it within days, at a distance of over 3,000 kilometres. The losses of China's prairie soils, blown so far out to sea, are a significant but still small part of an immense global problem. The world's soils are being eroded so fast that, by the end of the century, there will be one third less topsoil per person than there is now. And in case you think that this is a problem largely confined to the dustbowl of the American mid-west or to the crumbling, terraced valley slopes of Nigeria, down in Somerset substantial quantities of fertile soil are suffering a similar fate.

Between Yeovil and Crewkerne in south Somerset, G. J. N. Colborne and S. J. Staines of the Soil Survey of England and Wales recently studied an area of sandy and silty soils mainly in arable use. Some 40 fields were chosen randomly and monitored for soil erosion monthly. Their purpose was to measure the extent and degree of erosion and to identify the role of certain soil characteristics and cultivation practices.

Most erosion occurred under winter cereal crops, and least from bare ploughed land. The mean soil loss from fields under cereals was 4.2 tonnes per hectare, compared with 2.5 tonnes per hectare under maize, 1.7 tonnes per hectare under potatoes, but only 0.2 tonnes per hectare from bare ploughed land.

Of the 19 monitored fields sown to winter cereals, nearly a quarter suffered slight soil losses but more than a third lost more than four tonnes of soil per hectare. Two fields lost a staggering 11 and 21 tonnes from every hectare.

Most erosion occurred with the coarser textured, sandy soils which generally had lower organic carbon contents and, in consequence, a poorer soil structure. Losses were highest in the fields subjected to the greatest use of wheeled agricultural equipment, and where the crop had been drilled in downslope. In fields drilled downslope, the average soil loss was 6.4 tonnes per hectare compared with only 1.7 tonnes per hectare in fields drilled across the slope. Increasing erosion was also correlated with increasing field slope; less than 3 degrees of slope resulting in an average loss of 3.4 tonnes per hectare compared with 4.9 tonnes of soil per hectare in fields with a slope greater than 3 degrees.

In these sandy fields in south Somerset, soil loss was due to runoff during periods of rainfall. As soon as a combination of soil surface conditions and soil wetness allowed runoff to form rills, only moderate amounts of rain were then needed for considerable quantities of soil to be washed away. Little runoff usually occurred until November following the drilling of cereal crops in the autumn. At first, runoff was very limited, but by January small rills started to develop, many of which were eventually etched by heavy rainfall into channels of more than 100cm cross section. Water flow in these rills then continued to move soil downslope until late March when rapidly growing crops and a drying soil again reduced water runoff.

Colborne and Staines recommend several changes in cultivation practices to reduce soil loss, including drilling cereals along contours, a reduction in the amount of wheeled machinery using fields, and, possibly, the use of direct seed drilling, thereby leaving cereal stubble on the surface to reduce water flow. More grass in the crop rotations to improve soil organic matter and structure, and grassing of field slope convexities to cut down surface runoff in rills were other measures suggested to cut down soil erosion.

Rates of soil loss of between 8 and 13 tonnes per hectare have been recorded recently for sandy soils in Shropshire during winter periods. An erosion rate of 1.1 tonnes of soil per hectare has been recorded for clay-rich soils in Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. These rates represent an average surface lowering of up to 1.4mm per year, probably much higher than the amount of soil being formed by weathering of the underlying rocks.

EXACTLY who introduced the rabbit to Great Britain and when is not clear. Both the Romans and the Normans have been assigned this dubious credit. Undoubtedly it was here by the twelfth century although it appears to have been originally confined to the western Mediterranean (Iberian peninsula) and was introduced elsewhere as a food item.

The adults were formerly known as conies, a term still present in some place names today. Only the young were known as rabbits which is, in fact, Middle English and derived from the French where it indicated the suckling of young. Litters are usually born between January and September although occasionally at other times. Each doe has the capacity to produce several cubs and thus one litter approximately every month. However, this does not occur in wild populations and up to half of the developing embryos may die only to be reabsorbed. Consequently, some ten fetuses come to term each year.

At birth, the offspring are blind, deaf and without fur. Unlike most mammalian mothers, which spend considerable amounts of time with their progeny, the doe leaves them almost immediately after birth and returns briefly to be suckled once each day. This behaviour may have evolved to reduce predation of the does in the blind nursery holes. Upon leaving, she seals the short hole in the warren to conserve heat.

How then, do the pups locate the doe's nipples to suckle

Rabbit family: hunting in on pheromone

### How baby rabbits come to grips with fast food

The mother rabbit spends hardly any time with her offspring, yet they never seem to go without. William Middleton explains



within the limited time available to them? In a series of papers, researchers at the University of Munich have reported on this phenomenon (Behaviour 1983 vol. 83 pp. 250-275; Animal Behaviour 1984 vol. 32 pp. 301-307; Journal of Comparative Physiology A 1984 vol. 153 pp. 13-17).

Does were noted to nurse their litters for a period of ten to twelve minutes on the first day. Thereafter their single, daily visits lasted for three to four minutes. They provided no care for their offspring other than a supply of milk and during their time with the young stood quite motionless. Time was necessarily at a premium for the pups but they instinctively anticipated the doe's visit and reacted quickly. They prepared by uncovering themselves from the nest material and the subsequent disturbance, as a result of the mother's arrival, induced them to raise their heads which brought them in contact with the doe's belly.

On the first day after birth, the newborn rabbits took 12 seconds to secure a nipple compared with 200 for rats of a similar age whereas by the fifth day the times were three and 100 seconds respectively. The rapid reaction of rabbit pups is all the more remarkable in that they positively

searched for a mere two and a half seconds. It was the time taken to initiate the search that decreased with age.

Exploratory behaviour appears to be guided by an olfactory cue termed a pheromone. Rabbits are capable of breeding at three and a half months and it was at this time that it became detectable. In non-breeding and virgin does, its secretion followed an annual cycle. In February, emission commenced, reaching a maximum in June and declining to a minimum from October. The yearly pattern of production appeared to follow the seasonal changes in daylight. Does placed under short days in June ceased to release pheromone whereas artificially lengthening the photoperiod in December proved stimulatory.

Irrespective of the time of year, mated does exhibited greater amounts of pheromone during gestation. Emission remained high during early lactation but waned steadily to non-breeding levels by the time the young were weaned. The effects of pregnancy and lactation proved to be the prime influence and overrode the effects of daylength.

The pheromone does not appear to be far reaching but with increasing age, the pups showed an enhanced ability to react to it as a result of improved perception, learning and heightened arousal. Although the doe and her litter are in contact for a very limited period each day, the pups may drink up to 25 per cent of their weight in milk. This is important because their next meal is 24 hours hence.

It is already known that specialised skin glands produce odours important in the regulation of rabbit social behaviour. Possibly one acts as a pheromone and is employed by the mother to guide her progeny to suckle during her fleeting stay in the nest.

Dr. William Middleton works for the Biomedical Information Service of the University of Sheffield.

### Staggering news

Paul Simons reveals why trees come into leaf at different times

SOME species of tree come into leaf before others: in a single forest about a month separates early flushers like the birch, *Betula populifolia*, from the red oak, *Quercus rubra*. So why are leaf blooms staggered?

We know that the trees largely respond to warmth for the signal to break their buds, although a few count the hours of daylight instead. When the latitude and year-to-year variations in temperature are taken into account, the leaf break of any particular tree species is remarkably predictable.

But when a Canadian scientist, Martin Lechowicz, leafed through a wide assortment of published data about the trees—their genetic history, types of leaves, physiology, seasonal timings, habitats, and so on—he also found that leaf break depends on all sorts of hidden clues in the trees and in their ancestry (The American Naturalist, vol. 124, pp. 821-842).

The most important clue to the leaf break variations is in the arrangement of a tree's plumbing. Water is sucked through the roots into the

trunk and up into the leaves through xylem tissue. The water is sucked up as a slightly salty drink inside millions of tiny straws—the microscopic xylem tubes—and trees that regularly break leaf early have far narrower, and often fewer, tubes than later leafers.

But isn't this the opposite of what you would expect—after all, the wider and more numerous the xylem straws, the faster and greater the water should be sucked up? However, there is a serious drawback: the streams of water in larger tubes are more likely to break and trap an air bubble, so blocking any further water suction in that xylem cell.

Although such breaks frequently occur during freezing in winter or during heavy sucking in the summer, the blockage is usually irreparable.

But there is another reason for the staggered emergence of leaves in trees. Lechowicz also found that the evolution of many of our so-called temperate trees has not kept pace with events over the past few million years.

Many species, such as the lime (*Tilia*) have descended from tropical or sub-tropical ancestors, and are still adapting to coping with the cold snaps during our capricious springtime, when their fragile leaves are prey to late frosts.





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## COMPUTER PROGRAMMER/ ANALYST

The ICI Corporate Bioscience Group has an opportunity for a computer programmer/analyst to lead the development of computing facilities for the group to support research in molecular genetics, plant sciences and cellular biology.

The successful applicant (male/female) will interact closely with Bioscience Group scientists to analyse their computing requirements, develop suitable software for use on DEC VAX 11/780 or microcomputers, and will also advise on the acquisition of hardware and software and ensure its integration into the group's work.

Candidates should have a degree (or equivalent) in computer science, physical science or related subject and at least two year's full-time computing experience in a scientific environment. Familiarity with the use of 8086-based microcomputers is desirable and a knowledge of biochemistry or chemistry would be an advantage.

The vacancy is in the laboratories of a large science community located at Runcorn Heath in Cheshire. You would be a member of a Mond Division team which provides specialist support to the various groups on the site.

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For an application form contact Sue Owen on Runcorn (0928) 61372 or write to: Mrs S Owen, Personnel Department, Imperial Chemical Industries plc, PO Box 8, The Heath, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4QD.



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Focus TV & Video Centres Ltd are expanding throughout the North of England and as a result need to appoint a Sales and Marketing Executive based in Manchester.

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If you think you can meet the considerable challenge offered, please apply in writing with a full CV to: Mr V Montgomery, Personnel Manager, Focus TV & Video Centres Ltd, Botanical House, Talbot Road, Stretford, Manchester M16 0PQ.

## FOCUS Television & Video Rental Centres

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Applicants are invited for the post of Director of Research and Development, Windward Islands Banana Growers Association, in St Lucia, West Indies, to head Banana Research and Development Division, Post graduate degree in Agriculture and Multi-disciplinary research team experience necessary.

Applications must be in by June 30. Apply for details from Winban UK Representative, 10 Kensington Court, London W8. Tel: 837 9522.

## LEEDS POLYTECHNIC School of Mathematics and Computing SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER II

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Details from: Lecturer, Leeds Polytechnic, Calverley Street, Leeds LS2 9JT. Tel: (0532) 462355. Closing date: 21st May, 1985. PLEASE ENCLOSE SAE.

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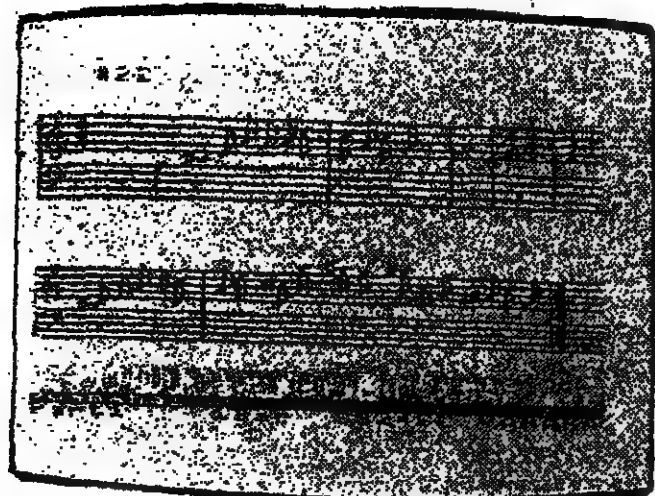
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## EDUCATION GUARDIAN

Appears in The Guardian on Tuesday



Pictures by Frank Martin of the Yamaha CX-5M music computer



## Music, micro, please

Sing along with Jack Schofield at the keyboard of his micro synthesizer

YOUR NEIGHBOURS may have been for this, but there is a home micro which is also a sophisticated electronic synthesiser — the Yamaha CX-5M Music Computer. It can play eight notes at once, imitate most musical instruments, provide "drum box" backing, and pump a selection of ear-shattering sounds through the loudspeakers of your hi-fi system. With extra software you can even program your own polyphonic songs or compose, play back and print out six-part music. But it is the sheer quality of the CX-5M's sound that is most impressive. In musical terms it knocks micros like the Atari, BBC B and Commodore 64 into a cocked hat. However, there is no point in visiting your local computer dealer to make the comparison. Computer shops are not allowed to stock it. Only Yamaha's select "Hi-Tech" musical instrument shops are.

There is a very good reason for this. The CX-5M is a 32K MSX micro retailing at the apparently high price of £449. The Japanese MSX standard has proved a gigantic, and embarrassing flop. As a micro, the CX-5M compares unfavourably with, say, the 128K Atari 130XE at only £169.99.

However, put the CX-5M in a music shop with a competent

shows a typical MSX Basic screen with 28815 bytes of free RAM. Type "Call Music" and this summons up the synthesiser menu, which allows you to play music and program the keyboard.

There are 46 different sounds (called "voices") available, ranging from brass and string sounds, through woodwinds (flute, oboe, clarinet, piccolo) and percussion (timpani, snaredrum, bell) to more exotic noises like the Japanese Koto and West Indian steel drum. Sound effects include train and ambulance noises. The keyboard can be split to play two different voices at once, one monophonic and the other polyphonic. These are selected using the cursor control keys, though this is far from convenient.

The next part of the menu allows you to start an automatic rhythm section using the built-in "drum box". You can add drum, bass and chord elements of the usual staggering monotony, and in this case, not particularly high quality. (Guitar enthusiasts will perhaps want to add Yamaha's RX-15 drum machine at around £200.)

Having set up the backing rhythm, you can use the keyboard to play along, just as with any synthesiser or electric organ. You can also record your efforts — up to

2,000 notes — in the computer's memory, and either play it back or save it to tape. While something's playing back, you can play along with it. You can't overdub, but a fairly proficient user can produce some very professional sounds.

While there is a wide range of built-in voices, the accessory YRM-102 FM Voicing Program enables you — with considerable effort — to program your own. (A similar cartridge provides this facility to DX-7 owners via the built-in MIDI interface as programming voices on that is even harder.)

For those with a limited command of the keyboard, the YRM-101 Music Composer enables music to be programmed in "step time" instead of "real time". This accessory ROM provides staves on the TV screen, and lets you enter music note by note. You can use either the music keyboard or the computer keys to do this, with up to six parts and 8,000 notes. Virtually all musical notation is catered for. Afterwards the composition can be played back or (digitally) saved to tape. The notes can also be printed out, either on a printer or a suitable dot-matrix printer.

The CX-5M with Music Composer cartridge would be excellent for music lessons in

schools. The main limitations are that only one part can be on screen at once, and the screen definition is so low (256 by 192 pixels) that complex music — especially chords — quickly becomes almost illegible.

Finally there is the YRM-104 Music Macro cartridge, which is used for enhanced music programming in Basic. Anyone who has programmed music on a Dragon, Pandi Color Computer or IBM PC will be familiar with the basic system. It is very easy to use, as notes are entered by their names (e.g. c4, d4, etc.). Sound effects can also be produced for video games, etc.

Accessory cartridges cost £20 each, and further titles are scheduled for the future.

The Yamaha CX-5M is important to the micro industry, because it establishes a new level for sound facilities, against which all other micros are found sadly lacking. It suggests we can ask for, and expect to get, superior systems in the future.

Alas, that is not an argument for buying a Yamaha CX-5M now. It may produce professional-sounding results, but it is not going to displace DX-7 and DX-9 keyboards from Top of the Pops. A micro, keyboard, monitor, amplifier, speakers

and the associated miles of wiring are impractical for this type of use.

Nor does the CX-5M really appeal as a micro. It is unfortunate for Yamaha that the whole MSX system is slow, underpowered, overpriced and out of date.

A CX-5M outfit would be a wonderful addition to any school. Unfortunately schools don't have any money, and yet they are already committed to subsidised micros from local companies that were almost certainly chosen for other than musical, or probably even educational, reasons.

In sum, the CX-5M does not come into the "must have" category for any obvious group of users. However, if you want a music synthesiser AND a microcomputer, and you have at least £800 to spend, then visit your local music shop for a demonstration. You'll be impressed. The CX-5M can play tunes that would charm a snake, let alone the cheque book out of your pocket.

Many thanks to The Rock Shop, 26 Chalk Farm Road, London NW1, for the demonstration and loan of a system. Contact Yamaha-Kemble Music (UK) Ltd on Milton Keynes (0908) 71771 for the addresses of other stockists.

Can computers be used to find objective solutions to human problems? Could an expert system, for instance, settle a dispute between union and management? Brian Bloomfield suggests that software can't replace the human dimension.

## Distrust built into the system

EVERYBODY seems to be turning to expert systems to help them solve their problems. One new application area is in organisational policy and decision making where it is believed that expert systems can integrate the knowledge of diverse human experts and thereby offer a powerful resource for management planning.

But they are also being developed for tasks such as management-union negotiations. Thorn-EMI have recently announced a system called Negotiation Edge. Are these developments merely the inevitable outcome of the growth of scientific knowledge, or might they also be tied to the goals and interests of the groups who stimulate them?

The history of computing indicates that various goals and interests have shaped the development of the first computers was stimulated by military and industrial needs during and after the second world war. Later the interests of management in commerce and industry left their mark on the subsequent development of programming. Just as the growth of scientific management has been used to rationalise factory production in the 1920s, wherein industrial processes were broken down into very simple stages and then integrated into production, so the emergence of structured and modularised approaches in computer science reflected the aim of breaking the task of programming into discrete routine parts which could be given to individual systems analysts, programmers and coders.

Aside from increasing efficiency, another goal behind management's desire to increase their control over software production. A direct consequence was the transfer of power and control away from programmers to higher levels of management. Instead of depending solely on highly skilled creative programmers, the division of labour in software production enabled the recruitment of less talented people who could be given routine programming tasks.

An even more interesting example arose during the 1960s when the use of computers in policymaking was first mooted. It was contended that controlled experiments on models of other systems offered a potential for solving complex problems in corporate systems and urban planning. The background to the latter area of application was rising in American cities coupled with urban stagnation and decay: problems which led city managers to engage in a desperate search for technological solutions.

Computers were seen as a means of solving human problems in a scientific and objective way. But in reality the situation turned out to be far more complicated than the technological optimists had expected. For example, one team of urban modellers contended that the problems of American cities were largely caused by the influx of underemployed people, principally Blacks, who could not be supported by the existing budgetary resources of most cities. Having considered the behaviour of their computer models, they suggested a policy of demolishing but not replacing poor housing stock as a means of restricting migration into the cities. As other commentators noted at the time, such a policy would only serve to increase overcrowding in other areas, forcing them to turn into ghettos. Far from being objective, the models reflected the values and biases of those who programmed and commissioned them.

The upshot of this was that urban administrators — constituted by different and conflicting interests — could not agree upon the use of such models. Rather than providing a means of encouraging agreements by providing a more scientific picture of urban systems, they merely became new sources of controversy. Might the same lesson not apply to expert systems? If so, what difficulties are likely to arise, and how could they be avoided? Could we really, for instance, use an expert system in management-union disputes?

An obvious image conjured up by the notion of computerised industrial relations is one in which management and unions are interrogated by an expert system which then seemingly steps back from the issues involved and offers a compromise to both sides, negotiation without pain. Given the implicit hostile nature of many management-union meetings, the prospect of computerised industrial relations might appear to offer an attractive alternative. But the reality is likely to be far from trouble-free.

First, there is the obvious issue of who would control such an expert system? Who would create its knowledge base and update it? Even if both sides agreed in principle to using an expert system as an arbitrator, we would then probably face with the prospect of other negotiations over what expert systems could or could not be used.

Perhaps the most fundamental problem of all would be whether the unions would trust such a system. They are likely to be deeply suspicious of management's motivations for introducing the new technology into the traditional smoke-filled-room atmosphere of industrial relations negotiations.

But the problems will not be restricted to the union side. Management negotiators may themselves resent the new technology, fearing that it represents a challenge to their competence or even a means by which higher management might seek to extend its influence over them. An expert system has to be built up from the knowledge of its human counterpart; and, this knowledge can be restricted by the fact that humans are often loath to reveal all their wealth of experience and expertise — a resistance which is likely to be enhanced if management negotiators suspect the intentions of their senior colleagues.

Further, whilst unions and management typically differ in their viewpoints to a very large degree, individual negotiators none the less often have deep respect for each other, sometimes having developed a professional relationship over many years — something which would be most hard to accord to a computer.

A less ambitious use of expert systems would be in a consultative capacity where they could be employed to advise one or both sides on their negotiating strategy. This would help to preserve the human face of negotiation. But if only one side employed an expert system, it would gain the rhetorical advantage of being able to claim in public that its own case was the more legitimate because it had been advised by a computer. So whatever happens when expert systems enter the arena of industrial negotiations, it is likely that their use by one side may force the other to do likewise in spite of any misgivings which it might have. Expert systems may be useful in the conflicts of interest which mark industrial disputes, and they are only as good as the knowledge put into them. When these systems are useful at negotiations only time can tell.

Computer systems may help GPs, but they also raise serious ethical questions, argues John Dawson

## Should doctors practise on other people's software?

THE BMA Handbook of Medical Ethics says: "In general terms the doctor should be aware that his signature on a document validates the information or opinion contained in the document... Signing routine forms such as those produced by a mechanical haematological counter means only that the doctor is satisfied that the equipment is operating within satisfactory control limits. His signature does not validate the information on an individual form, for he has no knowledge of the particular specimen; he remains responsible for any opinion or comment that he expresses upon the results."

It seems certain that the impact of expert systems on medical practice will not be to take over more jobs for the orthodox professional. It will be to create more jobs for the computer scientist and system engineers and to shift the accept responsibility for the success or failure of a patient's treatment.

It is likely that the diversified specialities in hospital medicine will tend to converge. Hospitals may be increasingly run by patients requiring surgical procedures or in-patient pathology investigation. The areas of clinical practice that need manual skills, such as surgery, endoscopy, anaesthetics and obstetrics, may be at less risk than many others. Counselling skills, for example, in the care of the dying and the mental illnesses are likely to increase in importance as scientific medicine becomes more machine dominated.

The solution of some moral dilemmas in medical practice appears to be a limited area within which rules can be developed which could be applied by machines. While some rules are already applied by machines (disclosure of information to different classes of user) no account has been taken of the extent to which we want machines to make these decisions for us.

Some people, perhaps those of a meek disposition or those who are disadvantaged, may be quite happy to take their chance on the basis of objective

judgments made by machines. Conversely, the buccaneers in society, the people who are the competitive aggressive survivors are perhaps less likely to accept the judgment of a computer. The latter group will always feel more able to survive in a climate of uncertainty in which their manipulative skills and their aggression can be brought to bear on the person sitting in judgment.

Giving authority to a computer would be likely to cause stagnation and atrophy of our initiative and creative ability. The exercise of responsibility is often a painful matter causing anxiety. While it is linked to success and social status it is a burden which many people would be glad to shed.

But once responsibility for certain decisions had been given to a machine people would be likely to concentrate their attention on other areas leaving behind a computer system which would be unable to take account of changing social conditions, changing moral values, in terms of altered priorities within society

and advances in medical technology which alter the economics of health care.

I believe that expert systems can be developed that would provide "good" guidance or would make "good" decisions in some of the moral dilemmas that affect medical practice. But should we construct our software to reflect a Jewish philosophy? Should we be able to buy Catholic or Scottish Presbyterian software?

What will be the motivations of the software writers and what philosophy will they express in the rules that are built into the system? In even so primitive an application as the use of micro-computers for repeat prescribing by GPs it has been noticeable how prescribing standards have been altered.

Many of the early programs were bought by doctors who wished to issue their repeat prescriptions with less effort and less cost. While the programs were bought for one set of reasons, they had been written by another group of doctors for a different purpose.

The programs were written by doctors who recognised the importance, for example, of limiting the number of repeat prescriptions that are issued before the patient is recalled to see the doctor. And the efforts of the few doctors, collaborating with software companies, produced a number of packages for repeat prescribing purposes that set high standards for controlling repeat prescribing.

As the packages were sold successfully to general practitioners, who accepted, by default, central control over the way in which they practised medicine. That control would have been unacceptable had it been imposed or suggested by any other route.

It is very easy to copy software and to distribute it widely so that many machines can run the same program, apply the same philosophy and make uniform judgments across areas of medical treatment. On the one hand this may be seen as being desirable, as it reduces the probability of

arbitrary, unfair decisions. On the other hand, mass distribution of software may produce a stifling uniformity in an area of decision making where pluralism is more than usually important.

While some things should always be prohibited (in my view, for example, a doctor's involvement in torture — we should arrive at that conclusion, each of us within ourselves for our own reasons. In that process lies a collective strength. A single standard imposed by a small team of software writers, perfected and distributed across the country provides no individual framework within which can be applied the medical skills and technology that we have. At its most dangerous, a single imposed standard can be reversed or modified in a new version of the software. That is a truly frightening prospect.

Dr. John Dawson is head of the professional division of the BMA. This article is based on part of his address to a British Computer Society Seminar on expert systems and artificial intelligence, which opens tomorrow.

Ultimately, even the most theoretical question presents practical problems. Keith Devlin examines the great challenge to the solver in the pursuit of the insoluble

## The world would end before you could answer the questions

THE MOST important single question in computation theory today is whether or not P and NP are the same. Hands up all those who don't even know what the letters P and NP stand for in this context! The problem is purely theoretical one, but should it turn out that P and NP are equal, the repercussions throughout computer science could be tremendous. In particular, most of the present day techniques would be rendered highly vulnerable, for their security depends on an assumption that P and NP are quite different.

So just what are P and NP? It's all to do with programs that can run. The difference is the speed of the computer used to run the program. For the purposes of the P versus NP problem, the difference in running speeds can be ignored as "negligible." You will see why one can cheerfully ignore a factor of a million or so — a factor probably achieved by the immense cost to the manufacturer — in a moment.

Then there is the skill of the programmer. This can be decisive, though it does not affect the problem I'm about to describe. Finally there is the task the program is designed to carry out. This is what is at issue as far as P and NP are concerned.

In order to explain the problem, I'll take as an example one of the most famous computational problems around, the Travelling Salesman Problem, described in this column last December. A salesman has a list of cities he must visit. He has an atlas which tells him the distance between each pair of cities on his list. He wants to work out the route he must follow in order to minimise his total journey distance.

Can he write a computer program which will do this for him? The answer is, he probably cannot; very likely no one ever could. (At least, if P and NP are different things, as I suspect.) The critical factor is the time it would take for such a program to produce an answer.

Suppose we were to write a program to work out the salesman's route, using what-

ever computer we have access to. Given the program and the computer, the time taken to find an answer would, it would seem, depend on the number of cities to be visited. The more cities to handle, the longer it would take the program to find an answer. A crude measure of the efficiency of our program would be to express the time taken to solve the problem as a function of the number of cities involved.

In a general context, the relationship between the running time of a program and the size of the data is called the "time complexity function" for the program. If N is used to denote the size of the data and T the time complexity function, the quantity T(N) tells us how long the program takes to find an answer given an amount N of data.

A problem is said to be of type P (for "polynomial time solvable") if there can be a program to solve it which has a time complexity function T which is bounded above by some polynomial functions (ie for some number K, T(N) is not greater than N<sup>K</sup> for all values of N). It should be stressed here that this is not a



question of which programs there are available today, but rather of any program which could ever be written. (Mathematicians always think big.) As far as we know, there is no program of the above sort which would solve the Travelling Salesman Problem, which suggests that this

problem is not of type P. (Existing packages for this problem provide acceptable approximate solutions, not optimal ones.) However, it is not hard to imagine a hypothetical "computer" which could solve this particular problem very easily. The difficulty in the

problem is the sheer number of alternative routes available even for quite modest numbers of cities. (For N cities there are N! routes.) Suppose we could employ our hands on an infinite number of identical computers, and program each one of them to examine just one possible route for any proposed salesman's tour, and then compare the results (in one go) and thereby arrive at the shortest.

Since the problem of calculating the length of any one tour is easy (it's a simple addition sum), our "super-computer" could solve the problem in no time at all. (You would need infinitely many computers to allow for arbitrarily large proposed tours.) Problems are said to be of type NP (for "non-deterministic polynomial time solvable") if they can be solved by running a polynomial time program simultaneously on an infinite number of identical computers and comparing all the answers in one go at the end. For obvious reasons, this concept is a purely theoretical one, but as it turns out a very important one.

Practically all of the present day problems to do with route allocation, scheduling, optimisation, and the like, are of type NP. In order to be solved (exactly) on a computer they would have to be of type P. But does it follow from the fact that a problem is of type NP that it is in fact of type P? Probably not, but no one has been able to settle the question as to whether P and NP are actually the same one way or the other.

Instead, the main overall development to come out of all the work on this problem has been to up the ante to an off-putting extent. It is now known that practically all of the "important" problems in NP (including the Travelling Salesman Problem) are what is known as "NP-complete".

This means that the problem cannot be solved in polynomial time unless every other NP problem can be solved. Most workers regard the discovery that their problem is NP-complete to indicate the time to look for some other way to solve it. The only hope of solving such a problem would be to show that P and NP are identical.

The consensus view is that they are not, despite the absence of any concrete proof of this fact so far.

Incidentally, in case you are wondering just what is the significance of using the letters N and P to denote the efficiency of programs, consider the following figures. Suppose we have a computer capable of performing one million operations per second. A program with time complexity function T(N) = N<sup>2</sup> might require 0.001 seconds with data of size 10 and 0.0025 seconds for data of size 50. A program for which T(N) = 2<sup>N</sup> would require 0.001 seconds for the size 10 data but 35.7 years (N) for the size 50 data. With data of size 60 the figures are 0.0038 seconds and 368 centuries, respectively.

Most real NP-complete problems are "slower" than 2<sup>N</sup> and involve more data than 60 units, and the time required to solve them exceeds the timespan of the universe. This is why the polynomial / non-polynomial split is so crucial, and explains why P and NP problems does not depend upon computer speeds.



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## COMPUTATIONAL SCIENTISTS

The New Science Group of ICI at The Heath, Runcorn has an established theoretical chemistry group working in the areas of ceramics, chemical reactions and catalysis. Applications are invited for two positions in this group in the general area of computational chemistry.

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page 22



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## DIARY

LAST month's BUPA-sponsored Doctor of the Year award, presented by Princess Michael at the height of her little family trouble, went to a Bristol surgeon, Mr. William Thomas. The citation read out to guests at the Savoy Hotel paid fulsome praise to Mr. T's work on peptic ulcers. This was a little white lie, I'm afraid, and the Princess, if she is reading, need read no further. For Mr. T's pioneering award-winning work was, in fact, on twisted testicles.

"There were many distinguished people at the lunch, as well as the Princess," exclaims a BUPA spokesman. "It was bad enough referring to gastric juices over lunch, but to have talked about someone's twisted balls would have been out of all propriety."

EVER on original, Mr. Tony Marlow, the authoritarian Northampton MP has tabled a Commons amendment speaking of critics of President Reagan's Bitburg trip "acquiring to moral blackmail." It adds that "at least one child of 17" was amongst the US officers buried in the cemetery and talks of "ordinary men and women whose lives were sacrificed in the line of duty." Not one other MP has signed the amendment.

THE Commons Trade and Industry Committee trip to China ends today with some members happier with their hosts' hospitality than others. The Chairman, Mr. Ken Warren, is extremely happy since he was referred to throughout as "Your Excellency Chairman Warren" and driven in a limousine while the other MPs travelled by minibus. And Mr. Robin Maxwell-Drysdale is happy since he was allocated two bedrooms at the State Guest House in Peking for Maxwell and one for Drysdale.

THE FULL text has been released of the subtitle to Blazing Saddles which has so upset Mrs. Mary Whitehouse's noble movement. The BBC subtitle, herself deaf, translated the sounds in the notorious naked scene thus: "FROUURRRPP. After much frouurrrpping this added generously. The farting continues." Taste-jarves itself.

MODERN technology has once more come to the aid of Mr. Charles Douglas-Horne, enabling him to edit The Times from his hospital bed. This time Mr. Douglas-Horne is in the Royal Marsden Hospital in Sutton, where he is expected to remain "for a few weeks." A Times spokesman says it is a recurrence of his persistent back trouble — "a condition of his blood and his bones" — and Mr. Douglas-Horne participates in editorial conferences through a "squawk box" by his bedside and also keeps in touch by means of a car which travels to the hospital twice a day bringing papers for his attention.

DOES IT not bring a blush of joy to a journalist's face to learn of someone wanting 200 copies of a particular back number? Why, we asked the landlord of the Three Horseshoes, Lower Herdres, Canterbury, did he want all those copies of Tuesday's Guardian? Because, he replied, he liked the look of the old VE Day issue and was allowed to keep all his customers' VE Day celebration fish and chips in them.

MANAGEMENT at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast have been becoming more and more alarmed at the piles of soiled and smelly laundry which has been piling up in the hospital corridors during a NUPE dispute over cuts. So it was with a delight that they learned on Tuesday night that someone had finally moved the linen. A statement thanking the staff involved was promptly issued. It was not until they tried to get into their offices yesterday morning that the truth struck home.

CND supporters wishing to write to Anne Francis, the car's wife, should note that she was, in the end, not sent to Solihull but to Cookham Wood Prison, Rochester, Kent.

MR DAVID STEEL follows Mr. Neil Kinnock down the path of the youth club, joining up with the noted club owner, Mr. Peter Stringfellow, to host a celebration for Young Liberals at the Hippodrome, Leicester Square next Wednesday. The bumper day out for young Libs includes free pizzas available at selected West End restaurants. "We're a bit worried," confided an organiser, "because one of them, Kinnock, is actually quite nice." Makes them sound like Young Tories.

Alan Rusbridger

Plans for dormant mines, activated at the touch of a switch, create legal hazards too, writes DAVID FAIRHALL.

## The Navy goes back into the minefield

WHEN IS a mine not a mine — the kind that blows up ships, that is? British and American naval lawyers have been studying this question quite seriously since scientists informed them that the next generation of mines under development by the Royal Navy will be able to lay dormant on the seabed for months, perhaps even years, before being activated by a new kind of acoustic signal developed in the North Sea oilfields. The oilmen's underwater technology opens up the sinister prospect of covert mining operations which need not be declared until the weapons are switched on — provided, meanwhile they can legitimately be defined as harmless.

The international law on naval mining is not extensive. It consists essentially of the 1907 Hague Convention and an important judgment by the International Court of Justice, involving the sinking of a British destroyer in 1947, known as the Corfu Channel incident. But the basic principle is clear: no country is entitled to lay mines, even in self defence against a declared enemy, without warning innocent third parties to keep clear.

The Hague Convention deals only with countries that have formally declared war — an unlikely event these days, as the Falklands conflict reminded us — but it did spell out the principle that mines must sooner or later render themselves harmless. That can be done with a simple clock. The Corfu Channel case, in which the Royal Navy was trying to establish its right of innocent passage through Albanian territorial waters, added the principle that the coastal state was responsible for warning international shipping of a known danger even when it claimed it had not

laid the mines — a nice point of law which might recently have left the Nicaraguan government paying compensation for covert mining alleged to have been organised by the CIA.

The relevant section of the International Court's judgment reads: "Obligations incumbent upon the Albanian authorities consisted in notifying for the benefit of shipping in general, the existence of a minefield in Albanian territorial waters and in warning the approaching British warships of the imminent danger to which they were exposed. Such obligations are based not on the Hague Convention No. VIII of 1907, which is applicable in time of war, but to certain general and well recognised principles, namely elementary considerations of humanity, even more exacting in peace than in war, the principle of freedom of maritime communica-

tions and every state's obligation not to allow knowingly its territory to be used for acts contrary to the rights of other states."

So where does this leave the Royal Navy's new continental shelf mine, which it wants fitted with the sort of acoustic switch the offshore oilmen use to open and shut underwater valves? Mines are already fitted with clocks, like terrorist time bombs. The Americans switched on the Halphong mines at the height of the Vietnam war at the end of the third day, giving time for ships to get clear. The point about acoustic activation is that its timing does not have to be predetermined. It enables mines to be laid as a precautionary measure against a potential enemy — a great tactical advantage the Ministry of Defence reckons can hardly have been lost on the Russians. In the nineteenth cen-

tury the Imperial Russian fleet led the world in the development of the naval mine, and the Soviet navy today maintains a vast capability to lay mines from surface warships, submarines and converted trawlers.

Now the Royal Navy wants to get back into the mining business, with the most modern equipment, after decades of neglect. Its existing stockpile of mines dates from the Second World War. A bit of updating can and is being done, but much of it is literally rusting away.

A modern shallow water mine (20 to 30 metres depth) can be bought off the shelf. The Americans provide NATO with a deep water anti-submarine mine called the Captor, which stands for "encapsulated torpedo." It only launches its torpedo simply rises from the seabed when it hears the right sound, one that can be vectored towards the target, or

an encapsulated homing torpedo like Captor.

Meanwhile, the Chief Naval Judge Advocate Captain Tony Thorpe has been looking closely at the law to decide whether we or any other nation could legitimately use an acoustically activated mine without immediately declaring its presence. His conclusion is that provided the object on the seabed is definitely and reliably harmless, there is no obligation under international law to tell anyone it is there. A mine, in other words, is not a mine until it is switched on. American naval lawyers, I understand, are inclined to agree, but academic opinion has yet to be tested. Captain Thorpe has, therefore, prepared an unclassified version of his assessment which will be presented in July at the Institute of International and Comparative Law. He is not expecting an easy passage.

Three consortia led by British Aerospace, Ferranti and Marconi Underwater Systems, have just completed feasibility studies which have convinced the navy that the technical problems of the continental shelf mine, including an acoustic switch, can be solved. The next stage, if the funds can be found, is a competitive project definition study. Details of the designs are being kept secret for both military and commercial reasons.

However, in principle the choices are a mine which simply rises from the seabed when it hears the right sound, one that can be vectored towards the target, or

an encapsulated homing torpedo like Captor.

What do the young make of war? "If we hadn't won, Britain would be a German owned country like Timor," says Mandy Tupper, 15, who has been leaving school and wanting to be a beauty therapist. Her friend, Kim Armstrong says: "If it wasn't for the war, we wouldn't be alive today." Her parents told her that they were under five in 1945. History has become a proverb.

As early marriage compresses the generations, today's teenagers get recollections of the war in Europe and Asia from grandparents rather than parents; and of armed conflict in general from television and film. Mandy's grandfather was in Egypt, and India. Andrew Carnegie's grandfather was in the RAF. In the front room of the family home, his own father still has the medals and group photos on display.

Carnegie's grandfather was Jamaican; he himself came to Britain 18 years ago, when he was 10. Now he's got a career in the youth service, running a club in the crypt of St John's RC Church in Islington. Mandy and her mates, as a group of white teenagers who use the club feel the considerations of war and peace are distant, largely because they have other worries about "exams" and jobs.

Thanks on television made more impact on the trio of girls, trying out eyeliner and ear-rings in the newly-minted confidence of puberty, than did their history teacher. "In school, we only did Sir Francis Drake and the Plague. And that was years before the war," says Kim Armstrong. "But I did like Tomko. Most war films are really sexist. They always show men fighting for their country, and women just nursing."

Would Mandy Tupper join it? "I'd rather support CND by buying badges and that sort of thing. I think there's enough trouble in the world without having petitions. It's so confusing. The Government says one thing, the CND says something. And it goes on. Then they're off to join the GLC elections on the South Bank, but that's largely because it also happens to be Mandy's birthday. That leaves the club mostly to black guys, cues in Mandy's granddad's this convo about... asks me and puts out when he hears the no-no word, war. Kenny's preoccupation is this: 'I got to get 243 to get my hair cut, man. My hair's falling out.' VE Day on the box is now being jammed by the club's own sounds — the current number one in the charts, Fair-

Even a one per cent uncertainty creates problems in tests for Aids. ANDREW VEITCH reports

## Blood will tell—but only with difficulty

THOUSANDS of blood donors may be falsely identified as potential Aids cases if blood tests now being evaluated by the Department of Health are introduced at transfusion centres.

The result will be personal tragedy on a massive scale or more probably, specialists warn, a life-threatening shortage of blood supplies as donors choose to stay away rather than risk being told they have been infected.

In the US, where two versions of the blood tests are now being introduced, doctors are warning that efforts to alleviate the crisis of Aids-contaminated blood will create a second equally critical crisis: a draining of blood and plasma shortages for patients who need transfusions.

The tests are 99 per cent accurate, according to the manufacturers' figures. But 99 per cent is not good enough, the specialists say. Recent US data show that even at that standard of accuracy, between 4,000 and 21,000 British donors will be told mistakenly that they have been exposed to Aids.

The accuracy figures come from studies in optimal con-

ditions before the tests were licensed. They may vary in large-scale screening by newly trained staff in transfusion centres. A difference of only 0.6 per cent in the accuracy figure would result in a 450 per cent increase in the number of false "positive" results, according to the US data. In the UK that would mean up to 80,000 donors will be told, wrongly, that they have been infected.

The solution is simple: retest all the positive blood samples with a more sophisticated laboratory test and don't tell the donor the result until it has been confirmed. This is precisely what Britain's infectious disease agency, the Public Health Laboratory Service proposes to do. They have developed a highly sensitive test from samples of the virus provided by its co-discoverer, Dr Robert Gallo in Atlanta, Georgia.

But senior PHLS officials are warning privately that they will not be able to cope with the thousands of retests needed unless the Government increases resources.

The agency has been forced to reduce staff numbers to cope with a £1.5 million cut last year, another

£1.5 million cut this year, and has been told it will lose over £2 million next financial year.

The Aids tests show the presence of antibodies to the virus. Having antibodies does not necessarily mean you will develop the disease (your immune system may conquer the virus) or that the virus is in your body (you may have already conquered it, leaving only antibodies as a memory of the battle).

But because there is no way yet of telling whether an antibody-positive person is infectious or not, strict precautions are recommended.

This is what a donor who shows a positive result on the blood test will be told. It is not known whether or not you will develop Aids; you will need regular medical checks; there is a risk of infecting others by sexual intercourse (heterosexual or homosexual); "and intimate kissing"; you should not share toothbrushes or razors; pregnant women may transmit the infection to their offspring; tell your dentist and GP when you go for treatment.

Those are undoubtedly

reasonable precautions for a person who is genuinely antibody-positive — but for those falsely labelled it must represent a needless disaster.

Dr Michael Osterholm and his team at the Minnesota health department, Minneapolis, reported in the New England Journal of Medicine: "As donors become better informed about the likelihood of a reactive test, they may begin to view a donation as a major risk to their well-being."

Two versions of the test have been licensed in the States, from Abbott Laboratories and Electro-Nucleonics. Three more are on the way. These, and another slightly different, more accurate version developed by UK specialists at the Midsex Hospital and the Institute of Cancer Research, are being evaluated by the Department of Health for use in all transfusion centres.

The need to protect the country's blood supply is so great that one or more of the tests will be in widespread use by the autumn.

Dr Osterholm's team have used accuracy data from Abbott and Electro-Nucleonics to calculate the number of

false-positives that are likely to show assuming that an initial positive will be rechecked using the same tests.

Minnesota is a low risk state for Aids — 23 cases and none related to transfusions. It has 190,000 blood donors and just over 60,000 people who give plasma alone compared with some three million donors in Britain.

The doctors report: "Each year we might expect to find between 371 and 1,701 falsely positive donors among those who have repeatedly positive screening tests."

Transfused to Britain, these figures suggest that between 4,000 and 21,000 donors will be wrongly declared positive if the PHLS is unable to check the results — and the tests do prove to be 0.6 per cent less accurate than claimed, up to 30,000 donors will be at risk.

Tests are essential, says the Minnesota team, but they warn: "The personal trauma for a donor who receives a false positive report and the inevitable adverse and widespread publicity that will be associated with this problem, in conjunction with the already volatile atmosphere of the Aids epidemic,

he's not just putting himself in danger, but is also endangering his family, his house and his land. The truth is that Israel's policy is successful."

Abu Hassan is a realist, not a defeatist. The lesson of the last villages of 1948 is one that will never be forgotten. Just as Abu Mustafa refused to leave his village, he will never return to his home in Qastina, now a busy junction on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem road. His home in the Shufat camp is all he has, and his watchword is "Sumoud" — steadfastness — or plain "hanging on."

The Palestinians know that their uninvited neighbours in the West Bank — the 40,000 Israeli settlers who have moved across the old "green line" since the 1967 war — will seize on any opportunity to get rid of them. The kind of resistance that has defied them in South Lebanon would provide such an opportunity. And they are deeply worried — as are many Israelis — by men like Mr Ariel Sharon, who say that the Palestinian homeland is across the river in Jordan.

If there is hope, says Abu Mustafa, it lies in a political solution. "Only this morning I heard on the Voice of America that they will talk to members of the Palestine National Council. Let them talk to Yasser Arafat. I will accept compensation for my land and a confederation with Jordan."

were not even allowed to listen to Cairo radio or to express our national freedom in any way."

Despite the difficulties, there is resistance to the Israelis in Shufat. But where is it? "In my heart," says Abu Mustafa. Others are blunter and more realistic: "The only real resistance," concedes a younger man called Abu Hassan, "is in the Press, in our Palestinian flags and symbols. We can throw stones. But we have no weapons. A 14-year-old boy throws a stone at an Israeli car. That's not resistance."

The problem here is that if someone uses weapons,

"If there is hope it lies in a political solution." An Arab trader on the West Bank

IAN BLACK reports from Jerusalem on the West Bank view of Israel's troubles in Lebanon

## The anger that rests in peace

want one olive tree or one inch of Lebanese territory," Abu Mustafa says thoughtfully. "But the problem for us Palestinians is that the Israelis won't give up the land they took from us 40 years ago."

Israel proper is not Lebanon, and nor, more to the point, is the West Bank and Gaza. No-one ever believed that the Israelis intended to stay in Sidon and Tyre and Nabatya, whereas it is hard to see the day when they will evacuate Tel Aviv, or even Ramallah and Nablus.

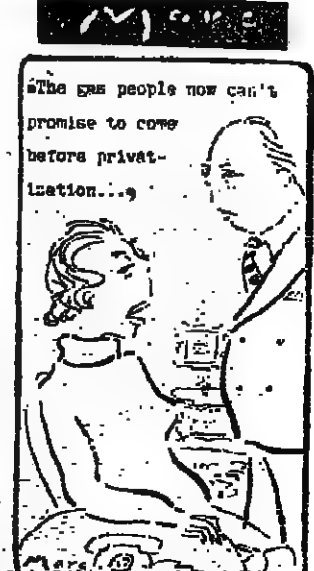
There is Palestinian resistance to the occupation: earlier this week a pipe bomb of the South Lebanese variety exploded near an Israeli bus in Qalqilya and a couple



of soldiers have been killed. One was shot through the head at close range in the Ramallah market place. But it is child's play compared to what has been happening in Lebanon. And the Palestinians know it.

The Lebanese, resistance, the Palestinians here argue proudly, owes a debt to the PLO. If the Palestinians had not been in Lebanon since 1968," says Arafat Haniya, the editor of the East Jerusalem newspaper Al-Sha'ab, "then how would 10-year-old kids have learned to use Kalashnikovs and RPG's?"

"When we were under Jordanian rule from the 1950s to 1967 no-one was trained to use weapons. We





# How to succeed as a nephew

by Ben Pimlott



**Balfour: Intellectual Statesman**, by Rüdiger F. Mackay (Oxford University Press, £19.50).

PRIME Ministers are very forgettable people. Who, today, could put a face to Lord Liverpool, or Richard Bonar Law? Who, 50 years hence, will remember Lord Home of the Hirsel or Lord Wilson of Rievaulx? For most literary or artistic reputations, political fame is transitory: a powerful, universal presence at one historical moment, blown away the next.

Alfred James Balfour is one of the most shadowy of his kind: yet, as this biography (the fifth to have been written) shows, he was important for a very long time. Indeed, he was a recordholder of sorts. In all, he held Cabinet office for 27 years—longer than Churchill, Gladstone or Pitt.

"This count alone," Mr Mackay assures us, "testifies to Balfour's stature as a statesman." Alas, it does not, and the impression created by this not uninteresting book is of an unimpressive, arrogant, effortless mediocrity.

The explanation, of course, lies in Balfour's silver-spoon-filled early years, during which he was able to obtain high office without exertion of any kind. Born in 1848, the son and grandson of a baronet, the nephew of Lord Robert Cecil (later the Marquess of Salisbury), his connections served him well, compensating for his natural indolence.

At Cambridge, according to a friend, he was as slothful as he was clever, and "constantly lay in bed—as for all I know he

does still—most of the morning." He did just enough work to develop a gentlemanly interest in history, deriving much of his limited energy to the writing of tracts aimed at verifying, scientifically, the existence of the Deity.

Meanwhile at the age of 21 he came into a fabulous fortune, with extensive properties in both England and Scotland. Despite his eligibility, he never married. At Trinity he was known as Pretty Fanny, in the Commons as Clara, in the House of Commons as Clara, in the House of Commons as Clara, in the House of Commons as Clara.

His biographer suggests that he was not homosexual. Lord Balfour speculated that he was, in reality, hermaphrodite—pointing out, conclusively, that nobody had ever seen him naked.

Politics entered his life when his uncle offered him a seat on one of the Cecil estates. Entering Parliament at the age of 26, Balfour treated the best club in Europe as an intellectual gaming-house; regarding the activities of the Chamber neither with cynicism nor dispassion, but as an arena for the recreational exercise of intellectual muscles.

This remained the essence of his political style. "Balfour always imagined that had fate decreed that he should be a soldier he would have been a great tactician," remarked a colleague. "All that was necessary was to apply the principles of logic and you pulverise the enemy."

Unlike his much younger rival, Winston Churchill (whose background, he resembled all too closely), he never had, or needed, a profession. This was the crux for all

his agility in debate and in office, his utter lack of experience of the world outside the Establishment. Establishment dangers most memorably episode of his life his impact was not as great as has often been supposed. In a convincing chapter, his biographer argues that Balfour had not existed in 1917, steps would have been taken to invent his Declaration. "The pro-Zionist decision was already virtually an assumption."

At the end of the war, Balfour backed intervention in the Russian civil war (though without Churchill's crusading fervour). Thereafter he was largely eclipsed in foreign policy by Lloyd George, whom he supported—unsuccessfully—against opponents in 1922.

In the same year, Balfour's smooth, easy-going personality was shattered by an attack in 1920, having received as an eightieth birthday present from both Houses of Parliament the gift of a Rolls-Royce—symbol, indeed, of his career.

What did he achieve? Balfour's way of writing lacks question, as though writing a school report. Mackay is much concerned to find "constructive" policies but, in fact, hard to point to any. The truth is that Balfour was not only a Conservative with a big C, he was also deeply conservative with a small one. As a mandarin or diplomat, he would have been ideal. As a political leader, he was a disaster.

This carefully-researched, though somewhat dry-witted study, helps to explain why the British ruling classes found it so hard to adjust to the harsher political realities of the post-Victorian world.

**Appointed Foreign Secretary** under Lloyd George, he turned to the vexed and vexatious question of Palestine. In this most memorable episode of his life his impact was not as great as has often been supposed. In a convincing chapter, his biographer argues that Balfour had not existed in 1917, steps would have been taken to invent his Declaration. "The pro-Zionist decision was already virtually an assumption."

At the end of the war, Balfour backed intervention in the Russian civil war (though without Churchill's crusading fervour). Thereafter he was largely eclipsed in foreign policy by Lloyd George, whom he supported—unsuccessfully—against opponents in 1922.

In the same year, Balfour's smooth, easy-going personality was shattered by an attack in 1920, having received as an eightieth birthday present from both Houses of Parliament the gift of a Rolls-Royce—symbol, indeed, of his career.

What did he achieve? Balfour's way of writing lacks question, as though writing a school report. Mackay is much concerned to find "constructive" policies but, in fact, hard to point to any. The truth is that Balfour was not only a Conservative with a big C, he was also deeply conservative with a small one. As a mandarin or diplomat, he would have been ideal. As a political leader, he was a disaster.

This carefully-researched, though somewhat dry-witted study, helps to explain why the British ruling classes found it so hard to adjust to the harsher political realities of the post-Victorian world.

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# In between two genres

Norman Shrapnel reviews new fiction

**Blood for Blood**, by Julian Gloag (Hamish, Hamilton, £2.95).

**Wild About Harry**, by Paul Pickering (Weidenfeld, £2.95).

**Parables with Marquise**, by Miles Gilbert (Hamish, £2.95).

**General from the Jungle**, by R. Travest (Hamish & Busby, £2.95).

**Lessons**, by James Kelman, Agnes Owens and Alasdair Gray (Cape, £2.95).

JULIAN GLOAG's new novel opens with a funeral, a rich lawyer being mourned by lawyers, a solemn scene unexpectedly enlivened by a snattering of marvellously pretty women like birds in a petrified forest. A promising end and start, as you might say, but the book doesn't entirely live up to it.

Nobody could complain that Gloag's way of writing lacks grip; indeed, so vicious is his steering clamp on the elbow that I for one began to feel nervous. Perhaps the trouble with *Blood for Blood* is that it takes on too much.

The book is part psychological thriller, part conventional novel with serious intent, and there seems some conflict of interest. Death, in proper novels, tends to be a grave matter; in thrillers it can hardly avoid a frivolous aspect. Emphasis on this case by the fact that the central character has not merely been murdered but stabbed sixteen times.

Not that this precludes a basic seriousness of intent; after all, Julius Caesar was exactly a thriller. The victim, a barrister who has defended rapists and murderers but not obviously the sort of man who would himself attract violence, seems to have been expecting his death and left a trail of somewhat coquettish clues in the form of bequests: the manuscript of a dried-up novel, and a close friend, is one of the beneficiaries.

I found myself not caring much about who did the killing except insofar as it cast light on the dead lawyer, an enigmatic fellow indeed. Layers of cover are stripped away, showing how little the narrator really knew his old chum, so that it's a self-exposure too. A complex ambitious aim, which the formal mystery set-piece obstructs at least as much as it supports.

Paul Pickering's interesting first novel, *Wild About Harry*, also seems to stumble between genres. We are, the diplomatic beat in rundown Latin America, as befitting our reduced status in the world—and the stage seems all set for farce, horror or some modish mixture of the two. With violence, smugglers and secret police anything on those lines looks possible.

But Pickering doesn't hurry to show his hand. His tone lacks inflection, as though concerned to leave his tale poised to take on in any direction. He has a gift for the static which provides memorably sinister moments, as when a culture makes a tentative move towards some minor character.

His brother Alec, who has a supporting role in wartime MPs were "a hopeless set of sheep... and that goes for Lord Dunglass" is quoted as "On the dust-jacket of one Family's War, the Mayhews and their white powder Howards, kept in touch during the war by means of a correspondence assembled, copied and dispatched by Lady Mayhew."

Here is another upper-crust family with traditions both ancient and modern. They cover, in their articulate and industrious letter-writing, a wide range of thoughtful responses to what one of them called "our dirty little war."

Oh, arrangers! They all gnaw away at the question of class loyalty. Remembering myself at the time, a dimly-educated conchie with no access to arrangement, I can't read these books without an inward lower-middle-class curling of the lips.

The Mayhews knew about that sort of thing, of course, and debated it handsomely as the war came to an end. Patrick hoped class fury would be dissolved by the experience of education. Who will take Our Children? is an inevitably interesting though curiously dry account of that, bringing together what were in fact totally dissimilar evacuations—the huge one inside Britain, and the small one to the United States, and the dominions. ("Great care was taken by the British authorities not to refer to the US as a dominion.")

Ginsberg is both fragile and dynamic, a lyrical genius, con-man extraordinaire, and probably the single greatest influence on the American poetical voice since Whitman—Bob Dylan.

**ALLEN GINSBERG COLLECTED POEMS 1947-1980**

Allen Ginsberg (1926-1997) was a leading figure in the Beat Generation and a major poet of the 20th century. This collection of his poems, from 1947 to 1980, is a testament to his enduring influence on American literature and culture.

The poems in this collection are a mix of the personal and the political, the intimate and the universal. They show Ginsberg at his most vulnerable and at his most powerful, capturing the essence of the human experience in a way that is both raw and beautiful.

This collection is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of American poetry or the Beat Generation. It is a work of art that has inspired generations of poets and readers alike.

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# Small thoughts from abroad

Richard Gott on diplomacy

**Documents on British Policy Overseas, Series 1, Volume 11. Conferences and Conversations 1945: London, Washington and Moscow**, edited by Roger Bullen and Margaret Pelly (HMSO, £7.50).

"MARSHAL STALIN would like us to discuss the Great Belt," Molotov told a somewhat bemused couple of foreign ministers (Ernest Bevin and James Byrnes) as they met in Moscow just before Christmas 1945. He went on to say that the Generalissimo often used to raise the matter with President Roosevelt.

Bevin and Byrnes, badly underbriefed, were clearly in a fog. Bevin said he was "myself" to know what was in Stalin's mind, but would try to find out what the position was. No one in his party of civil servants seemed to know anything about it, and he would have to seek clarification from London. When Molotov raised the question again two days later, pointing out that "the war had shown the importance of the Great Belt," Bevin said he wasn't prepared to discuss the matter further.

The following day, at a private meeting between Stalin and Bevin, the subject was still very much in the Russian leader's thoughts. Amid discussions of Iran, the Balkans, Tripolitania and the Dodecanese, Stalin still wanted "to clear up the question."

Bevin was then able to set his mind at rest. The Great Belt, he said, (which links the Baltic with the Kattegat) would remain in Danish hands, and there would be "absolutely free passage" through the Skagerrak. He also told Stalin that the British Government "would not approve the idea of any bases in this particular area."

Part of the joy and delight to be obtained from volumes of diplomatic documents arises from these wonderful glimpses of what is really on the mind of world leaders when the crucial issues of war and peace are being debated.

In this latest volume of post-war Foreign Office documents (from August to December 1945), when the implications of the atomic bomb, the future of the Balkans, and the Russian and the Americans to the exclusion of almost all else, Stalin seems to have been merely concerned about his exit from the Baltic.

Indeed what rather curiously emerges from this particular collection of British documents is the strangely relaxed attitude of the Russians, best brought out in a private letter from Frank B. Rowley, then a counsellor in the Moscow embassy, to Orme Sargent in London (then the confidante of all high-levels) repeating what he had gleaned from the crucial meeting between Stalin and Averell Harriman in October 1945. Stalin would be quite happy for the Soviet Union to retire behind secure borders rather than the United States had done after the first world war.

Stalin said quite calmly that, if the Americans preferred to keep the Russians out of Japan, well and good. Each of the victors could then run its own sphere in its own way. After the last war America had gone into isolation. This, Stalin thought, had been a mistake. Perhaps the Soviet Union would now have to go into isolation herself.

Harriman's impression was that Stalin was merely stating a fact and not attempting to exert any blackmail. We have always realised that this alternative policy of isolation existed for the Soviet Union, and in recent weeks there have been indications that some people here were advocating it in the event of "Big Three" collaboration breaking down.

Had the British and the Americans taken this strategy aboard, the Cold War—based on a belief in Soviet expansionism—might never have begun.

Although such insights emerge parenthetically from this volume, it is perhaps necessary to question the whole nature of this Establishment publishing venture. For the Foreign Office tradition of giving itself a puff at the taxpayers' expense is here richly continued. This is the moment when the Foreign Office, for the first time since the war, steps on to the world's stage, and according to the editors, shows "robust commonsense" in arguing "in defence of British interests."

Historians less biased towards the Establishment than the Great Britain of the present editors might however beg to leave to doubt whether the documents show that Bevin displayed much common sense during his first months as Foreign Secretary, or indeed that the interests that he was defending were particularly those of "Britain." Much of the time he seems to have been cantankerous, peevish, and ill-tempered towards the Americans, the Russians, and his colleagues.

What emerges from the record is that British interests were not his first concern. He was a man who, but for his own sake, would have been a disaster.

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Above: Bright multicoloured hand-framed sweater (assorted colours) smxl, £135.50 from Jones, 71 Kings Road, SW3; Ebony, 45 South Molton Street, W1; Huxley, 2 Union Street, Brighton. Charcoal linen trousers (also white, navy) 8-14, £74, from Whistles, St Christopher's Place, W1 and branches. Red raffia earrings, £39, from a selection at Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1.

Right: White cotton hand-framed sweater with coloured insets (assorted colours) smxl, £102; white linen trousers (also navy, charcoal) 8-14, £74 — both from Whistles, St Christopher's Place, W1 and branches. Leather belt, from a selection at Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1.

Below: Black, white and red wool machine knitted jumper (assorted colours) smxl, £95; matching wool skirt (assorted colours) smxl, £35 both from all branches of Whistles from August. Strava hat, £24 by Graham Smith at Knap, from Dickens & Jones, Regent Street, W1; Ann, 30 Princess Way, Exeter.

Hair by Paula at Simon Rattan, 54 Crawford Street, W1 (01-734 1984). Make-up by Natalie Jackson.

pictures by Nathalie Lamoral



## Going by the textile book

**Brenda Polan meets a family team that has revolutionised fashion knitwear**

WHEN, in 1977, Lucille Lewin was starting her first tiny clothes shop in George Street, one of the nicer but rather less glamorous streets in the West End, she was visited by a young couple who made knitwear using the girl's name, Ros Joffe, as their label. As they remember that first meeting, Lucille did not care for the sweaters but she seemed to like them and she placed an order.

As Lucille remembers it, the sweaters were very unusual, indicating originality and an inventiveness which had yet to achieve its full potential. And she did indeed find Ros and her then boyfriend (now husband), Jean-Charles Carriani, "quite adorable." They were, she was sure, the kind of people with whom she wanted to work.

Eight years later she is still sure of that and is able, in addition, to congratulate herself on her judgment. Today that inventiveness which she recognised and encouraged has made the creative team of

Ros Joffe and Jean-Charles Carriani one of the most influential in the industry and, if other manufacturers have made good profits from copying their ideas, they too have prospered.

Today 80 per cent of Ros Joffe's production is exported, half of it to Italy; a slightly smaller proportion to the United States and the rest divided between other, smaller, markets. A further half a million Ros Joffe knits are also produced under licence in Japan, a move for which the third member of the team, Ros's brother, Adrian, was responsible.

Three years ago it became obvious to Ros and Jean-Charles that the growth of their company needed to be directed by a business brain. Since neither of them reckoned they possessed one of those, Ros set about recruiting Adrian Joffe who had been working in Japan for a trademark and patent company for three years and who was ready to return to Britain to do his PhD.

The roots of Ros Joffe's creativity lie in the pattern approach to knitting. Ros was trained as a textile designer rather than a knitwear designer, a background which enables her to take a fresh, unorthodox and very experimental attitude to the technique. Jean-Charles's father and grandfather were in the fashion business and he started work at 19 as a fabric salesman for Duncharme, moved to a job at Liberty in London to learn English (where he met Ros), returned to a job in retail in Paris before finally opting for London, Ros and their own business.

"Jean-Charles," says Ros, "is very creative but, since he has been trained in no technical skill, he cannot express it in some ways that frees his imagination. With my technical knowledge and his imagination working with mine, the partnership is very fruitful. Adrian is the third factor, the one which makes a successful design partnership into a good business."

The most famous result of

this creative partnership is the bubble stitch which Ros and Jean-Charles perfected during that 1977 season when they had begun to sell to Lucille Lewin. Their primary interest is in creating original surface texture and pattern and bubble stitch creates the same effect in wool as that of seersucker woven fabrics; a gently ruffled surface giving a relief effect without heaviness or bulk.

Although the Ros Joffe team has moved on to develop new effects and new stitches, always with the emphasis on texture, the copyists are still exploiting the bubble stitch in a way which makes it clear that their invention has entered the lexicon of classic stitches.

They accept the inevitability of the copyists. They are all too modest to say so (and probably too modest and too delightedly buried in the excitement of their own work to even think it) but it is frequently the fate of innovators, in the fashion industry as in others, to reap slender rewards for their

inventions. The beauty and value of what they have made is initially appreciated by only a few. By the time the taste of the many has been persuaded in the same direction, the innovators have moved on and it is the copyists who get rich.

"When I was in Hong Kong recently," says Lucille, "I counted five Ros Joffe copies on one trip across the harbour on the Star Ferry. It does make me angry to see their ideas exploited in this way but the three of them are too gentle, too lacking in ego or conceit to get angry about it. Their minds are on the latest stitch they are developing, not really on what is happening to an old one."

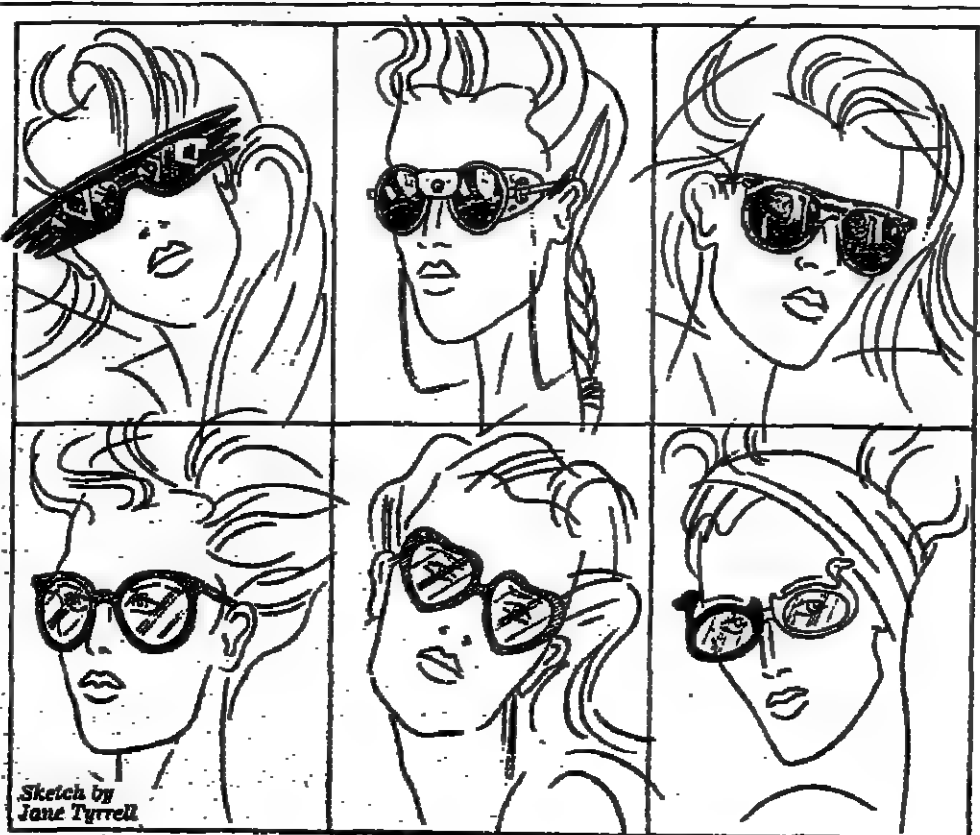
"They are so technically advanced, their approach more like weavers than knitters, that, in my opinion, no knitwear designers come within miles of them. We work so closely these days that, when I am putting a season's stock together, I do not have to specify colours to them. We discuss what I am buying and then I sit back with my tongue

hanging out to see what they will deliver."

Ros Joffe has not completely abandoned the bubble stitch, however. They are using it in a stunning range of childrenswear inspired by the needs of Ros's and Jean-Charles's two children, six-year-old Kim and her sister, Maria-Catherine, four. "We can keep the prices down," says Ros, "because we already had the patterns; we did not have to develop new ones, merely scale down the adult ones, and labour and yarn costs are slightly reduced."

For winter they have developed the women's range to include co-ordinating skirts and pants to go with tops and jackets or knitted coats. This section of the collection is slightly cheaper to produce because, although the emphasis is on pattern, texture, and depth of colour is still there, the techniques employed in production are slightly simpler. It should help Ros Joffe reach a wider market and convert many more fans.

## Style file



WITH the end of the opticians' monopoly last December and the recent withdrawal of many government subsidies on spectacles, a new battle wages on the high street. The hugely lucrative eyewear market is up for grabs. The ultimate victor in this war can only be the consumer, as companies compete for business with better designed and keener priced products. A name to look out for is quality eyewear by Oliver Goldsmith and here's our choice from his latest lines.

From top left clockwise: Wonder Woman sunglasses (assorted colours), £8.99. Ski goggles with leather (assorted colours), £8.99. Tortoise shell spectacles, £50-£60, as prescription. Black and white duck spectacles, about £66, as prescription. Love heart spectacles (assorted colours), £30-£40, as prescription. Big spectacles (assorted colours), £50-£60, as prescription. All by Oliver Goldsmith from Fortnum and Mason, Piccadilly, W1; Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1, and all branches of Boots Optical Service.

JOHN MUGGAN

A stranger approaches a nine-year-old and tells him his mother is sick in hospital and offers to take him to her — a pretend situation in a school teaching the art of self-protection. Clare Dyer joined a class of enthusiastic youngsters

## How can a nine-year-old defend himself?

"I KICK him in the shins. Then what should I do?"

"Run."

"That's right. What if he grabs me from behind? I would kick him in the knee, scrape down the inside of his leg, and stomp on his foot. Do you know that even if you've only got a tennis shoe on, you can really hurt someone like that?"

In a gem of a Queen Anne mansion in leafy Surrey, the well-scrubbed offspring of American businessmen are learning the art of self-protection. Mid-morning biscuits go uneaten and glasses of milk undrank in the third grade at the TASIS School in Virginia Water — an offshoot of The American School in Switzerland, hence the initials — as the dramas of the teenage bully, the menacing stranger and seductive Uncle Harry unfold before a rapt group of eight- and nine-year-olds.

"We're going to talk about rights today," says Michele Elliot of the Child Assault Prevention Programme. "Can you tell me some rights you've got as eight- or nine-year-olds?"

"You can stay up until 8.30 or 9.0," one lad volunteers. Squirms all round as the children are asked to imagine what it would be like to be deprived of such basic rights as the right to breathe, to eat, or to go to the toilet. Today, Michele tells them, she's going to talk about their right to be safe and their right to be strong.

Cue for the first role play. Drama teacher Roz plays a girl in the class, Michele a 13 or 14-year-old bully who demands her money with menaces. Roz reluctantly hands over the cash and is forced to agree to meet the bully every day after school.

What should Roz have done? "Run," "Say no," "Tell the teacher." The suggestions come thick and fast. Is telling the teacher telling tales? No, is the message, it's not telling tales to seek help from an adult if you feel you are in danger.

In the replay, Roz asks one of the boys, Cody, to walk home with her and help her say no to the bully. Roz and Cody stand firm and threaten to tell their mums and the teacher. Signs of relief as the bully slinks away empty-handed.

Now Michele is nine-year-old Tommy, and Roz a stranger who accosts him on the way home from school. The stranger tells Tommy his mother is sick in hospital and offers to take him to her. When Tommy hesitates, the stranger grabs him.

Where did Tommy go wrong? "He got too close," diagnoses one little girl, whereupon Michele demonstrates how to keep a safe distance. Two children's arms away is too close; evasive action is easier if you keep at least two grown-ups' arms between you and someone you don't know who approaches you.

The children launch into an enthusiastic discussion of tactics for escaping a stranger's clutches. Shin scraping and foot stomping go down well. So does the elbow in the stomach and, if he puts his hand over your mouth, bending his little finger back as far as possible.

Having caught him off his guard, they're told, run as fast as you can and yell. They practise a loud and fearsome roar designed to stand out from everyday playground shouts and squeals.

So far, so unexceptional. Most children are learned in school about the dangers of going with strangers, and 75 per cent of seven to 10-year-olds have seen the Home Office film, Say No To Strangers. But the part of the presentation moves into a sensitive area which schools in Britain have so far sidestepped, the much more real

threat to children of sexual molestation by adults they know and trust.

The role play hints at the role of capital letters. Uncle Harry, baby-sitting for eight-year-old Anne, sidles suggestively up to her while she's watching cartoons on TV. He puts his arm around her and remarks on what a big girl she's getting to be. Anne, clearly unhappy, edges nervously away. Uncle Harry pulls her closer. "Give me a nice big kiss," he demands. "And I'll buy you a Ghostbusters T-shirt." He warns her: "I don't want you telling anyone about this. This will be our little secret."

Michele asks: "When your mums and dads tuck you into bed at night and give you a kiss, do they say 'this is our little secret, don't tell anyone'?" If a teacher comes up and puts his hand on your arm and says, "you've done a good job today," does he say "don't tell anybody I told you that?" A resounding "No" to both questions.

The message, stresses Michele, is that no kisses or hugs or touches ever need to be kept a secret. If someone says you keep something like that a secret, tell an adult. If the first person you tell doesn't believe you, tell someone else. You've got the right to say no to an adult who asks you to do something that makes you feel uncomfortable or frightened.

Watching these confident, chirpy, privileged youngsters, it's hard to imagine anything nasty or threatening impinging on their lives. But opulent playing fields and large school fees don't insulate children from a danger which cuts across class and geographical barriers.

Michele stays on afterwards to see any of the children who want to consult her privately. None of these children has anything to tell. But presentations to other classes in the school have brought to light two separate incidents involving little boys and male neighbours, another involving a seven-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy, and a case of fondling by a grandfather — instances not peculiar to this school, but "indicative of what happens at every school," says Michele, whose American-inspired programme, launched in Britain ten months ago, is beginning to attract considerable interest from state schools and local education authorities.

In America, a series of multiple child sex scandals has rocked the nation and jarred the authorities into pumping funds into prevention programmes. Anyone who thinks it couldn't happen here should watch tonight's TV Eye (11.30, 9.30), in which details of a sordid three-year saga of sexual exploitation involving around 100 Leeds schoolgirls aged from eight to 16 — which was discovered almost by accident — will be revealed for the first time.

Michele Elliot, whose interviews with several of the girls featured in the programme, says: "They were desperate to talk to someone. There was nowhere for them to turn." A sex abuse prevention programme in every school could provide the key to unlock the guilty secret for thousands of frightened young victims.

For further information about the Child Assault Prevention Programme, contact Michele Elliot at 30 Windsor Court, Moscor Road, London W2 4SN. A workshop for teachers and other professionals covering ages five to 16, will be held on June 19 and 20. Michele Elliot's book, Preventing Child Sexual Assault: A Practical Guide to Talking with Children, is available from the author, £2.20 postpaid, or from bookshops at £1.95.

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Details from: Virginia Boisot, Registrar, London Executive Programme, London Business School, Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4SA, Tel: 01-262 5050 ext. 381 Ref: LEP/G1.



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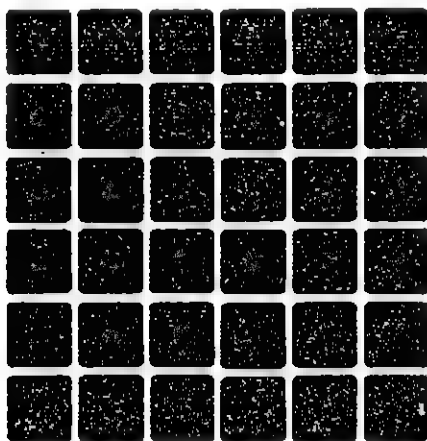
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## UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD Department of Engineering Science

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Further details from Dr. A. L. Dexter, University of Oxford, Department of Engineering Science, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PJ; applications, with a brief c.v. and the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent to the Administrator at the same address.

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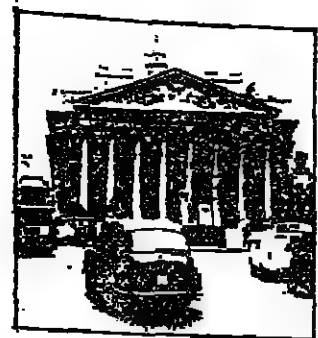
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## In the matter of JMB, the Bank should not have to be its own judge and jury



## NOTEBOOK

Edited by  
Hamish McRae

YESTERDAY the economic secretary to the Treasury, Mr Ian Stewart, disclosed that an account of the events surrounding the collapse of Johnson Matthey would be made public. The Bank of England would give "an account of events" in its annual report.

Thanks very much.

If you had to single out a place where it would be least appropriate to publish an account of the JMB debacle, it would be the Bank's annual report. Like it or not the Bank is in the dock. What it prints must inevitably be a doctored account: in its own annual report the Bank has no option but to defend itself. And by the standards of annual reports in general the Bank's one is a peculiarly uninformative document.

Arguably, the affair is material for a Royal Commission, or at the very least a Commons select committee, able to call papers and witnesses to find out what went wrong. The Chancellor is to get the results of a review into banking supervision this month, the outcome of a committee he set up to dig into the affair. There is a possibility that the review will be published, but doubtless that will all be about auditors' responsibilities to the Bank, the supervision department staff, changes to the Banking Act and all

sorts of erotica, rather than what actually happened.

There is an account by Price Waterhouse, but the Bank is resolutely against making this public, on the grounds that it would infringe banking confidentiality. There inevitably remains the suspicion that the main reason is that it would embarrass the Bank itself. After all, there must be plenty of meat left in the report even if the investigations of JMB's individual customers are cut out. What about the Treasury reply last week, which officials tried to withdraw from the Commons at the last minute, which said: "It is clear that JMB indulged in some extremely imprudent lending".

Of course, the Bank may surprise us all by baring its chest and publishing the grisly details, shorn of names of defaulting customers, of course. It could embody the review of the operation of the Banking Act which is attached to it. But the Bank is put in an

impossible position, in effect having to judge its own case. That may be what Mr Lawson wants. As well as detecting some of the sharpest questions from the SDF leader, Dr David Owen, back to the Bank for the Governor to answer, his junior minister has now put the onus for explaining the affair back on the Bank itself.

Nothing could show more plainly how the Chancellor disapproves of the Bank's handling of the affair.

## Good bits

SO CHRYSLER returns to the UK car scene. Those with long memories will recall how Chrysler first became a minority partner with the Rootes group, then gradually ended up owning the whole show. It then found that it was not really worth owning, and sold it to Peugeot, which continues to wrestle with its (renamed) Talbot.

Well, Lotus is not Rootes.

And Chrysler is now an altogether less fraught enterprise than it was when it discarded Chrysler UK. But why does it bother?

One of the interesting things about the British automotive industry is that the bits and pieces of it are very good in world terms. Leave Rolls-Royce and Jaguar, and look at some of the detailed engineering skills that exist. Lucas, a company with plenty enough problems, is much admired by General Motors for its headlamp pioneering work. A.E. again a company with its share of problems, is brilliant at piston design.

In a different part of the forest, take a hugely successful automotive industry. It is very good at making those bits of cars which you assume are metal but actually turn out to be made of plastic.

The key in Lotus is that it is very good at certain aspects of car design. It nearly succeeded in making the De Lorean car work, if it would accept that backhanding complicit and of course that

is why Toyota has a stake to get access to those design skills.

So this sort of investment is qualitatively quite different from the previous generation of foreign investment in the UK car industry. You can argue that Bosch or Porsche in Germany have the skills evident in Lucas or Lotus in even greater measure. They are certainly more successful commercially. But for that very reason, they are less available.

We should see the Chrysler interest as a modest note of confidence in something that is good, and not another badly thought-through incursion into a foreign company for the sake of it.

## No windfall

IT IS a small point (well, intellectually a small point but a mighty important one for most Guardian readers) but the apparent surge in house prices does provide some further evidence of

monetary froth in the economy.

What is worrying is that the scale of the rise — up to 25 per cent in the London area — is outside the sort of rise in money supply that has been appearing on any of the statistics. With monetary growth rising faster than the rate of inflation plus the growth of the economy you would expect asset prices to move upward. The excess money has to go somewhere. But this would explain rises of, say, 12 per cent in house prices, not 25 per cent.

So in London at least excess domestic money supply seems to have been compounded by foreign inflows of funds. Because of the weak sterling, London house prices have appeared extremely cheap in US dollar terms. A wedge of foreign money flowing into the plush pastures of west and north London, increases prices there, and the effect of these then trickles through into the price of property that regular Brits can afford.

While sterling was still weakening against the dollar

there was no particular incentive to rush into UK property. Now there is. Result: a surge in prices at the top end.

But of course the more house prices rise, the further demand there is for funds from Britons who want to buy them. Since the building societies are committed to a "no queues" policy, this further holds up building society interest rates.

So while the sharp rise in house prices may appear a windfall to fortunate home owners, it also underlines the fact that we are lumbered with high interest rates for a while yet.

## Oxford forecast

FINALLY a word of introduction. From now on the Guardian will be publishing the forecast on the British economy developed by Oxford Economic Forecasting, and also summarised in the new Oxford Review of Economic Policy. Details of the forecast are on page 27.

## Worsening trade picture leads to fears of long term damage to economy

## US payments deficit soars to \$28.3bn

From Alex Brummer in Washington

With the dollar still strong America's balance of payments deficit soared 16 per cent to \$28.3 billion in the first quarter of 1985 increasing concern about the long-term damage being inflicted on the US economy.

The announcement of a worsening trade picture came as a dispute broke out at the Federal Reserve board, about the current health of the American economy. Its chairman Mr Paul Volcker told Congress that his deputy Mr Preston Martin was talking for himself when he warned in Tokyo that the US might be heading for a "growth recession" — a period when growth is insufficient to prevent a rise in the jobless rate. Later the Fed issued an unusual statement saying that Mr Martin had been misquoted. Mr Volcker said that the future direction of monetary

policy would be determined at the next meeting of the Federal Reserve's open market committee. He told Senator William Proxmire (Democrat, Wisconsin) that the committee would debate whether an easier monetary policy was appropriate in view of the slow-down seen in the US economy.

The latest trade figures show there was a 5 per cent rise in imports and a 1 per cent drop in exports compared with the final quarter of 1984. This suggests that the strong dollar continued to undermine the base of American manufacturing industry and to erode America's ability to sell its products abroad.

Many economists believe that the deterioration of the US external position is largely responsible for the current slow-down at home.

In a statement issued last night the Commerce Secretary Mr Malcolm Baldrige warned

that there could be a further widening of the trade deficit in the months ahead. The Fed chairman said. When pressed however he acknowledged that "there are strains".

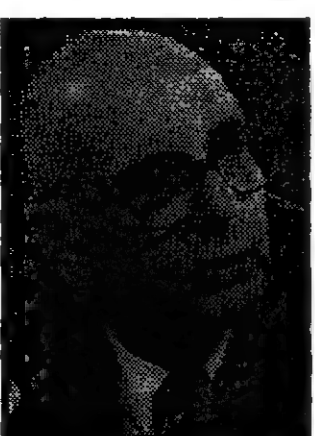
Indeed, as Mr Volcker was speaking, the small New York investment firm of Keeney and Braniff announced it was "winding down" its trading in American securities due to charges filed earlier this week against another small securities company Parr Corporation. With the memories of the problems of Drysdale Government Securities, ESM Securities and the Ohio banking crisis imprinted on Wall Street even this apparently small problem was being watched closely.

Despite these recent weaknesses Mr Volcker said there was nothing to fear for the safety and soundness of the American banking system in new rules the Fed is proposing

of the American banking system were on the wane. "We're in the process of passing the crest of that problem," the Fed chairman said. When pressed however he acknowledged that "there are strains".

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Paul Volcker

to give banks powers to deal in securities. But Mr Volcker came into some stiff opposition for his suggestions that interstate banking be formally phased-in by Congress.

## Midland issue now \$750 m

By Peter Rodgers, City Editor

Midland Bank yesterday raised its issue of perpetual floating rate notes from \$500 million to \$750 million, matching Lloyds Bank, which placed the new type of capital last week. There will be no further increases, said Midland's merchant bank, Samuel Montagu.

Midland also announced details of a financial reorganisation of its West German banking subsidiary, Trinkhaus & Burkhart, as a prelude to a placing of shares in Germany.

Trinkhaus is to be converted from a general partnership to a corporation with general partners, and Midland will reduce its 82 per cent holding to about 70 per cent, raising about \$25 million from German investors. Trinkhaus's annual report, published yesterday, contains no profit and loss account — in line with German practice for private banks — but shows an increase in total assets of 8 per cent.

At the time of conversion into a corporation, Trinkhaus's capital is to be increased from DM 150 million to DM 200 million.

It also emerged that one of the options for Midland's planned rearrangement of the shareholding in its 60 per cent owned merchant bank, Samuel Montagu, includes a management buyout of the subsidiary, Montagu Investment Management, possibly retaining a substantial minority stake for Aviva Life, the US insurance company which now owns 40 per cent of Samuel Montagu.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

AUSTIN Rover today unveiled its plans to return to the United States, the world's largest car market, with the help of the Japanese. The sales drive will be spearheaded by a secret new luxury car being jointly developed by Austin Rover and the Japanese car company, Honda.

Mr Harold Musgrave, Austin Rover chairman, said in New York yesterday that the car, known as Project X, will be imported and distributed in the US in 1987 by a new, jointly owned company based in Miami, Florida.

SIR Denis Hamilton is retiring as chairman of Reuters Holdings on July 1 and Sir Christopher Hogg is to succeed him for a two-year term. Sir Denis will have served two three-year terms as chairman. Sir Christopher is the chairman of Courtalds and he will continue to devote the bulk of his time to that company.

BRITAIN imported \$36.2 million worth of telecommunications equipment from Japan last year. Japan took \$400,000 worth of ours.

## TUC attacks research investment 'gap'

By Peter Large, Technology Correspondent

Mr Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, yesterday accused Mrs Thatcher of wrecking tomorrow's economy as well as today's by cutting the nation's research and development work while our competitors were expanding theirs.

He said the R & D investment gap was now well over £2 billion. Nearly 2,000 jobs in industrial R & D disappeared between 1981 and 1983, and Britain was investing less in real terms than it had in 1978.

Mr Willis was introducing a TUC report — "The Future of Business" — which pulls together most of the points that have been pushed at government by its own advisers and by industry for years.

These included the peril of

the education cuts; the need for a national industrial strategy; the disparity of a quarter of the nation's R & D resources going into defence with little commercial spin-off; the danger of Britain's skills being milked by inward investors to create wealth elsewhere; and the lack of adequate up-to-date information to tell us where we're at.

But the TUC also makes a more neglected point: that research in the arts, humanities, and social sciences is also needed for wealth creation — and is more cost-effective than scientific research.

On education, the report points out that only a third of Britain's workforce has even one O level, compared with the German and Japanese equivalents of two-thirds, while Britain's output of graduate

engineers is only a tenth of Japan's.

However, the TUC also talks approvingly of "apprenticeship" and of promoting "vocational" and "career" structures. On that first industrial relic, both Mr Willis and Mr David Barnett, chairman of the TUC economic committee, indicated yesterday that the TUC was in favour of a traditional vocational system.

Mr Barnett said they were concerned with developing training needs, not with preserving the "shibboleths of the past", and Mr Willis said the term should be taken as indicating wider skills, though he did add that they wanted to build on "the traditional attachment of skill", because it was important to a number of people brought up in that area.

But neither would answer a question on how guarantees of

a "career structure" in one employment in university or government research could meet the multi-percentage demand of a post-industrial economy or encourage researchers to become their own entrepreneurs.

Also published today is a report by a House of Lords Select Committee on Espirit, the EEC's research programme in information technology.

The committee praises the collaborative effort in principle, but complains that it is too academic, not market-oriented, duplicates national work, neglects small firms, and lacks a "presiding genius" to pull it together. And, in any case, it could not close the technology gap between Europe and Japan and America until there was a genuine Euro market which looked "a long way off".

## Carr shares jump on bid news

By Geoffrey Gibbs

Shares of the Doncaster based joinery manufacturers and timber merchants John Carr jumped sharply on the stock market yesterday as the company disclosed that a takeover bid may be on the way.

In a brief announcement, prompted by the recent strength of the share price, the directors said they had started negotiations with an agreed merger following an approach from an unnamed third party.

The company's managing director, Peter Carr, refused to elaborate on the short statement which stressed that the discussions are at an early stage. But followers of the company have already drawn up their own list of likely bidders. Names being touted in the City include Reed International, Hopworth Ceramic and Cement, Hanson Cement, as well as, inevitably, Hanson Trust and BTR.

John Carr shares — as low as 50p earlier this year — jumped another 15p to 86p each yesterday, putting a value of £58.5 million on the business. Directors of the company decided to make the announcement following a strong rise in the share price.

News of the possible merger comes less than a month before the company is due to report on trading.

John Carr directors have already warned that the interim figures are unlikely to hit the heights scaled in the opening half of last year but city analysts believe the year as a whole will produce some improvement on the record £7.3 million achieved in the 12 months to last September.

After a bumper start to its last trading period, in which first half profits soared to £4.2 million, the group had a disappointing time in the second six months as a result of a costly one month stoppage at its Doncaster site, adverse exchange rate movements and the slump in the timber frame housing market.

## Britannia wants BA charter flights curb

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

Britannia Airways, the leading holiday airline, is to seek official action to restrict charter holiday flights by the state-owned British Airways.

Britannia, part of the International Thomson Organisation, has applied to the Civil Aviation Authority for a ceiling to be imposed on all charter flights by BA and its leading charter subsidiary, British Airways.

The application is certain to spark off a bitter row between Britannia and BA that will spill over into the public arena if, as expected, the CAA holds a public inquiry into the case.

Britannia's formal application to the CAA asks for a "quantitative limit" to be set on virtually all of BA's extensive network of charter flights in Britain, throughout Europe and to points in America like New York.

However, Britannia, led by its chairman, Derek Davidson, only denied claims of "unfair competition".

what the company regarded as a "quantitative limit" on BA charter flights. It is believed that this limit would be set to BA's own limit.

But Britannia's application looks highly optimistic in view of the government's continuing policy of promoting more competition among airlines, and the refusal of the government and CAA last year to dilute flights by BA and its leading charter subsidiary, British Airways.

Britannia's move for a judicial CAA ruling arises from growing disenchantment within the charter airlines over alleged "predatory pricing and seat dumping" by BA.

The charter airlines claim that BA is distorting the charter market by "selling" aircraft space to British Airways at depressed prices. Another uncertainty is the fact that BA might suddenly "dump" aircraft seats on the market later in the year.

British Airways has categorically denied claims of "unfair competition".

## Argentina's rate of inflation hits record

From Josep Morgan in Buenos Aires

Argentina's apparently unstoppable inflation rate is marching ever upwards as President Raul Alfonsín's elected government negotiates with the International Monetary Fund over revamping the frozen \$4.25 billion standby loan accord.

The latest figures show that shop prices rose 28.5 per cent in April alone, taking the increase on a year before to 848.4 per cent. The increase marked the worst annual rate on record. President Alfonsín took over from the military regime 17 months ago, and for those who fear the economic crisis will defeat his efforts to produce stable democracy, it was the highest monthly price rise since April, 1976, just after the armed forces toppled Isabel Peron's inflation-racked elected government.

President Alfonsín does little to hide his belief that painful austerity measures are inevitable, but he is not only facing opposition from Peronist labour leaders, their colleagues in Congress and other smaller political parties, but also rapidly rising discontent in the ranks of his own Radical Party.

As government officials hint that talks with the IMF are nearly over, four prominent Radical senators have tabled a bill calling on the government to insist on a more "flexible" attitude from creditors in future. The bill is vaguely worded, but congressional ob-



Raul Alfonsín

servers see it as a barely disguised demand that the government should adopt a much tougher position.

It is believed that many influential Radicals, including the senators, want President Alfonsín to tell the banks who are holding up their \$4.2 billion credit package until the IMF deal is settled that there will be a set limit on debt repayments, linked to export income, until Argentina overcomes its worst ever economic crisis.

## Appeal told of Posgate's 'golden ball and chain'

By Mary Brasier

Lloyd's underwriter, Mr Ian Posgate, was not a prime mover in the scandal surrounding the Alexander Howden Group and charges brought against him by Lloyd's would not have occurred if he had not been under the wing of the Howden chairman, Mr Ken Grob, in a group which was dominated by Mr Grob, according to Mr Robert Alexander, QC for Mr Posgate.

On the second day of the underwriter's appeal against the findings of a Lloyd's disciplinary committee, Mr Alexander said there were mitigating factors against the conviction of life expulsion which Lloyd's had recommended for Mr Posgate.

The committee has acquitted Mr Posgate on the most serious charges of misappropriation of funds, but upheld allegations that he improperly received a Pissarro painting and shares in the Banque Du Rhone. Charges of siphoning off syndicate funds have also been brought against four other directors, Mr Alexander Howden, but the verdicts have not yet been published.

Mr Alexander said that Lloyd's had claimed Mr Posgate and the four had

transferred ownership of the bank to their own hands using syndicate funds. "The kernel of these allegations was that the five bought a bank with other people's money," he said.

But Mr Alexander said that it was impossible to say that Lloyd's had proved beyond reasonable doubt that Mr Posgate had taken a 10 per cent stake in the Banque Du Rhone knowing it was meant to influence his underwriting.

Mr Posgate maintains he regarded the gifts of shares and the Pissarro as a "golden ball and chain" to tie him to the group.

Mr Alexander began the day's proceedings by saying that Lord Wilberforce was entitled to overturn the disciplinary committee's findings and any charges were misdirected. "Evidence had been drawn from the evidence that should not be drawn."

Even if the charges were upheld, said Mr Alexander, the penalty of a life ban was too severe in the light of the services which Mr Posgate had given, "and which should be available to names in the future."



# Applying for shares in British Aerospace?



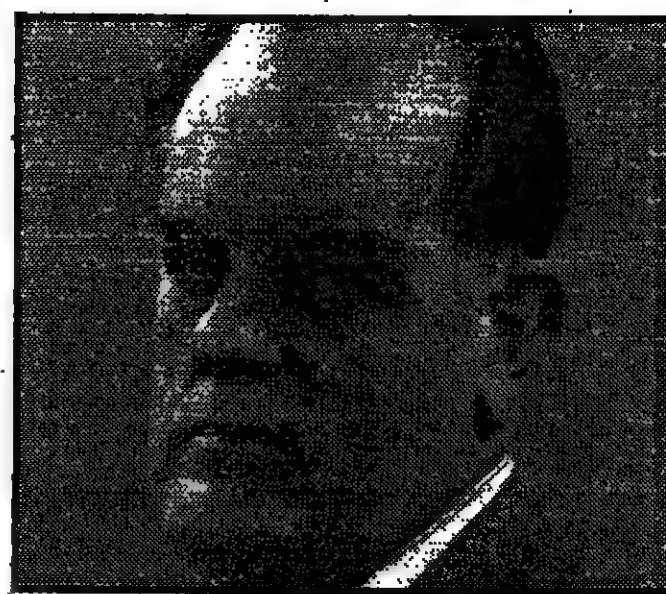
Remember your application  
must be received by  
10.00am. tomorrow.



# Forecast may yet turn out stormy

## British Gas sell-off slips on Sleipner slope

John Hooper looks at the pitfalls facing shareholders in the latest privatisation



Sir Denis Rooke—government vetoed plans



INVESTMENT  
Robin Stoddart

ECONOMIC forecasts are about as reliable as meteorological observations and, indeed, they have in past times been derived from the same source.

The hydro-banded dismal science does a better statistical cover-up job now. But jobseekers and older industries hopelessly scanning the heavens are feeling further halitosis just as the warmth from the oil surplus, buoyant consumer spending, and the capital investment and export upturns was thought to be circulating more widely.

Dreadful spring unemployment figures confirm that a recovery that does not extend to the building sector leaves millions out in the cold. Although house prices in most areas, like stock markets in most countries, particularly Britain, have advanced to near peaks, there has so far been little benefit to the less well-endowed. The imbalance is not only more blatant here than in any other advanced country; it is getting worse in leaps and bounds.

Only the relatively few will gain from the privatisation of the reasonably successful national corporations, Telecom, Aerospace and Gas, which have hitherto been numbered among the main assets of the whole state. What will remain is largely dross in terms of realisable value.

In a month or two it will be fully apparent whether the most optimistic survey from the CBI for many a year represents the view from the forecasters or is more of a fighting shot from the coaling tower. For a few years now, the captains of industry have been doing better for themselves than for the general run.

The sole justification for the hefty switch back to profits from wages or more markedly employment, is the growth it should engender. But even Mrs Thatcher, whose policy it is, is showing some sign of frustration that the hidden hand of capitalism is staying quite tightly clenched. There is now some doubt as to whether the process is continuing to work in the United States, where the public sector stake has always been minimal. Services may be accelerating but

there has to be industry left to serve.

Even allowing that the scale of the recessionary run-down exceeded worst predictions in Britain, it was always a mistake to assume that a big shift from old to new industry could take place in a few years. Non-intervention permitted and encouraged a crippling rise in sterling. Now there is some doubt whether capacity and skills are adequate to provide export-led growth. And the latest money supply wide adds another shadow of doubt about the sustainability of the domestic spending spree.

With the pound back down at a more reasonable level, at least against the dollar and average of foreign currencies, optimism should be justified, but it is taking a long time for any achievement to show through in output in the motor and other machinery and processing industries where millions are, or were, employed. Including civil engineering, this will be the key area for job creation, or restoration, for many more years.

Although inflation has not yet gathered much momentum again, the admission even among those that have most benefited from monetarism, that is the monetised, are now admitting that the whole strategy has become a complete fog. Whatever brought inflation down—and there has rarely been much need to peer beyond the oil price—it is patently not tight control of the annual increase in the money supply.

Meantime large-scale funds are sloshing around the banking system, some of them having temporarily left the building societies. Perhaps most significant of all last month, the sudden leap in the pound provided an opportunity for buying or accumulating dollars. Wisely, the bank of England itself took the opportunity of adding a quick half billion to the reserves and it was also quite busy alleviating day to day shortages, piling up its bill mountain.

While the scope for selling large amounts of Treasury stock at longer-term returns up to three percentage points, or nearly a fifth, less than can be obtained from, say, the sale of the assets of the privatised companies, the downward pressure on the gilt market from such activity. Asset sales are necessarily a temporary measure, but within less than three years of a general election it is still more expedient than it is doctrinaire.

As both new issues and the wider share price indices scale new peaks, there is good reason to adopt a cautious stance. The old adage "sell in May and go away" is unlikely to be followed by institutional investors this year, but profit-taking has its attractions until sustained industrial recovery is more widely apparent.

THE PRIVATISATION of British Gas would bring into the private sector a veritable giant, but one which—despite its profitability and efficiency—has several drawbacks from the point of view of the private investor.

Moreover, one of the few ways in which it could enhance its appeal would be to further policies that could ultimately be at odds with the sensible management of Britain's energy resources. This is a problem that may well return to haunt future governments.

A privatised British Gas would rank seventh or eighth amongst the country's private companies. With almost 100,000 people on the payroll, its staff is about the same as that of the Imperial Group.

In the last year for which figures are available (the financial year 1983/84), British Gas had a turnover of £6.4 billion. On that basis, it would be bigger than any other wholly British-owned energy firm, except the giant BP (which had a turnover in 1983 of £32.5 billion) and would dwarf the larger British independent oil and gas companies like Ultramar, Burmah and Bristoll who did between a fifth and a third as much business that year.

On the basis of turnover, the only energy company of comparable stature is Exxon's British subsidiary, Esso. Like Esso, British Gas is highly profitable. In 1983/84, it made some £1.2 billion, but had to hand over almost half of it to the Treasury in the form of the so-called "gas-levy".

Clearly, the way in which—and the extent to which—the Government decides to milk the corporation after privatisation will be of crucial importance to the way in which the City assesses it. But with a system similar to

the present one, British Gas, were it privatised today, would certainly be capable of turning in healthy post-tax profits out of which to pay dividends to its shareholders.

How long it could go on doing this is another matter. There is no immediate crisis, but there are several factors at work that could erode British Gas's profitability in the next decade or so.

The most basic of these is that the cost of BGC's raw material—natural gas from the North Sea—is rising sharply. Indeed, for several years to come it is expected to continue increasing at about twice the rate of inflation.

This is partly because the average cost of getting gas

companies who produce the gas—and the buyer, British Gas which transmits and distributes it.

Earlier this year, the scales were tipped even further against Sir Denis Rooke and his executives when the government vetoed their plan to buy Norway's huge Sleipner field. This would have guaranteed BGC secure access to foreseeable prices to a supply of gas the size of the Frigg field which currently provides about a third of the corporation's needs.

In the eyes of the market, though, profitability is not everything. Just as important is growth potential and it is in this area that British Gas is particularly lacking in lustre. "There will be growth in

meeting this year's target of £2.5 billion from asset sales. This week sees the sale of £400 million of shares in British Aerospace, and next month investors will be asked to find £1.2 billion as the second instalment in the British Telecom sale.

In addition, the government is lining up the sale of more shares in British Shipbuilders and the Royal Ordnance Factories. Together these will fetch well over £1 billion, and there is also considerable pressure from Whitehall to finally solve all the nagging problems surrounding British Airways and sell the world's favourite airline for a further £1 billion.

Further ahead, there are

well laid plans to sell off public corporations like the National Bus Company, British Nuclear Fuels, further parts of BIL like Unipair, the British Airports Authority, Short Brothers, Rolls-Royce and even parts of the British Steel Corporation.

In effect, virtually every publicly owned asset or corporation is up for sale, and if the Tories get re-elected for a third term, it is highly probable that the long arm of privatisation will extend towards such institutions as the Post Office, the regional water authorities, the electricity boards, and even the Bank of England.

However, there are several factors working against the government's ambitious plans for British Gas. One is the

crowded timetable which will mean that some of the more favoured candidates for sale will have to be sidelined to accommodate British Gas. Another is the sheer size of the task, always remembering that British Telecom—a similar-sized business—took three years of very hard work.

Privately the Treasury admits that the system can handle only two sizeable privatisations a year, excluding the "residual sale of shares" like this week's unloading of British Aerospace. Ministers may have to outbid each other for "slots".

This may mean that the eventual privatisations will be determined by who has the ear of the Prime Minister.

business of distribution. Its penetration of the domestic and commercial heating markets has already gone about as far as it is likely to—gas heats about six in every 10 homes and three in every 10 offices. That leaves the industrial market.

Natural gas is arguably the best of all the conventional fuels. It is easily transportable, environmentally benign and although accidents involving gas when they occur, tend to grab the headlines, they are relatively infrequent. Natural gas has therefore traditionally been regarded as a "premium fuel".

With the Government's encouragement, British Gas has tended to restrict its use to those who can best make use of its unique properties. In industry that has meant diverting it towards process heat and away from steam raising, for which coal is just as good.

Recently, however, with natural gas in abundance, the corporation has abandoned restrictions and edged deeper into the industrial market. It is far too early to say what privatised British Gas's strategy might be, but if the price of gas can be kept down, its executives are bound to be tempted to try to increase their share of the industrial market by selling gas for non-premium uses.

For several years to come, there should be no problem. But then the whole thrust of the corporation's argument in favour of buying Sleipner was that it faces a shortage of supplies in the second half of the 1980s.

Indeed, the more one looks at the Sleipner veto the odder it appears in the light of the subsequent decision to privatise.

It is, to say the least, curious that a government whose survival may well hang on the tax cuts which it hopes to finance from the sale of British Gas should have struck such a blow to the corporation's valuation so soon before putting it on the market.

out of the North Sea has gone up as the rigs have moved into deeper water and probed trickier structures. But it also reflects a shift in the balance of advantage between the sellers—the oil

some areas, but it will be slow", said Mike Costello, an analyst with stockbrokers Grieson Grant.

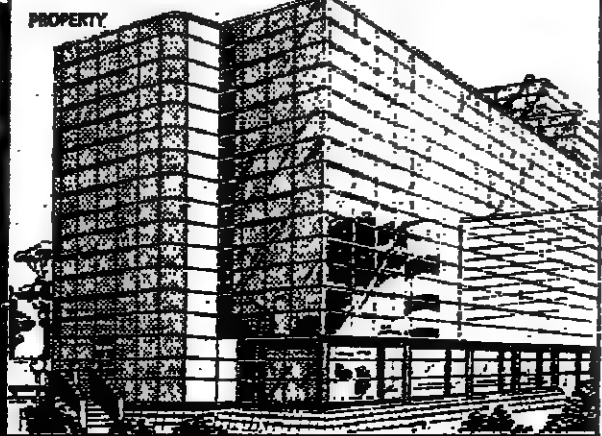
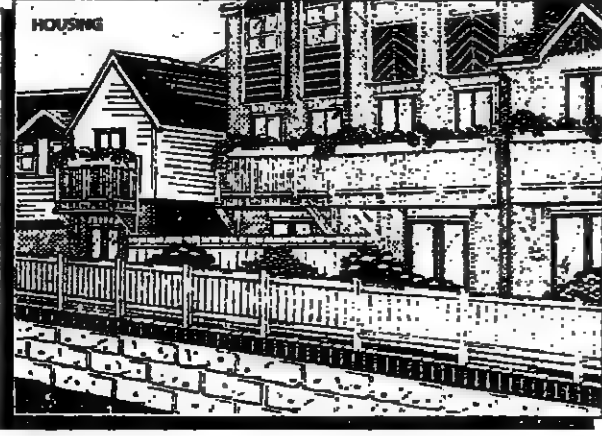
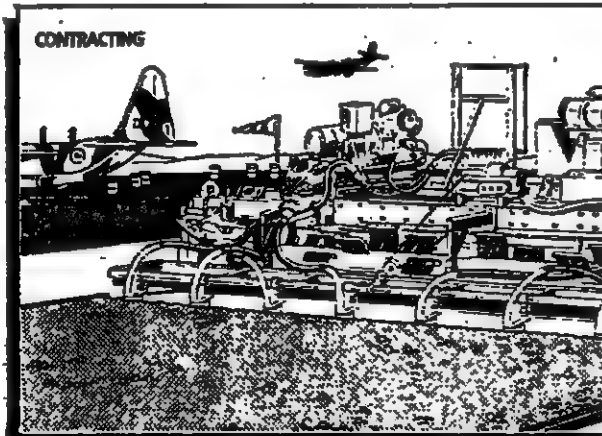
The aim of Mr Walker's decision to allow British Gas back into the oil exploration

business would appear to be to give the corporation some for expansion.

But the North Sea boom is over—from now on oil will be won at considerable expense and if the price of

crude continues to fall many future discoveries could prove to be uneconomic.

However, the real problem is that the bulk of British Gas's turnover—and profit—comes from the routine



CONTRACTING, MINING, HOUSING, PROPERTY

**"1984 saw increased earnings from all four main sectors of our business. We have made sound progress in developing these and see strong potential for further growth."**

TERREL WYATT, Chairman

**C**OSTAIN operates internationally in four main areas of activity - contracting, mining, housing and property. To each of these we bring a high degree of professional skill and experience, plus a readiness throughout the Group to adapt to the demands of a rapidly changing world. Group pre-tax profit was up 17 per cent.

### ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR

- We established a joint company, Hopewell Costain, based in Hong Kong, to trade into the People's Republic of China.
- We increased our interest in coal production to more than 15 million tonnes a year.
- We increased the number of new homes sold in the United Kingdom from 777 in 1983 to 1,389 in 1984.
- We sold our 49% interest in Costain Limited based in Toronto for £24.6 million.
- We completed the purchase of Land & Marine Engineering, Streeters of Godalming, Petrocarbon Developments and Haigh & Ringrose, broadening our capability in marine civil engineering, tunnelling, the engineering and construction of process plants and electrical contracting.

Summary of Results	1984	1983
Turnover	£846m	£723m
Pre-tax profit	£54.34m	£46.44m
Earnings per share	46.7p	42.6p
Dividend per share	15.0p	13.5p
Shareholders' funds	£243m	£229m



Copies of the Annual Report 1984, containing the Chairman's Statement and Review of Activities, may be obtained after 24th May, 1985 from The Secretary, Costain Group PLC, 111 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7UE. (Telephone: 01-928 4977).

## Henry Boot

Highlights of the 1984 Annual Report and Statement of the Chairman, Mr. E. H. Boot

Final dividend of 11.5p per Ordinary Share recommended making a total of 14.5p for 1984.

**TRADING - UNITED KINGDOM** Building and Civil Engineering - maintained position and well positioned for modest growth: Homes - exceeded targets for sales and profitability: Railway Engineering - slightly down on previous year: Plant - profitable but guarded optimism failed to materialise: Training - progress continues including responsibility for over 4,000 YTS trainees at established U.K. training centres.

**TRADING - INTERNATIONAL** Hong Kong - planned development maintained: Malaysia - very difficult trading conditions continue: Singapore - award of £120m. rail contract in Joint Venture with Gammon-Singapore: Saudi Arabia - severe and substantial setback.

**TRADING - PROPERTY** Investment and Management - very satisfactory and showing significant increase in profit: Development - progressed well.

**GENERAL** Trading conditions probably maintained a better than fair share of depressed home market with overseas trading conditions not very buoyant but better than U.K. Received Queen's Award for Export Achievement.

SALIENT FIGURES	1984	1983
Turnover	£846m	£723m
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	4,054	2,154
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	1,109	249
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation	2,945	1,905
Minority share of loss of subsidiary company	2	2
Extraordinary item	1,272	
Profit for the financial year	1,661	1,907
Ordinary dividends	769	769
Earnings per 50p Ordinary share	35.3p	35.6p
Total dividend per Ordinary share	14.5p	14.5p

Copies of the Report and Accounts obtainable from the Secretary, Henry Boot & Sons PLC, Banner Cross Hall, Sheffield S11 9PD.

**TRADING - UNITED KINGDOM** Building, Civil Engineering, Homes, Railway Engineering, Joinery, Plant  
**TRADING - INTERNATIONAL** Civil Engineering, Railway Engineering, Landscaping  
**PROPERTY AND INVESTMENT** Development, Property



# Costain beats City's best estimates

By Tony May

Trebled profits from housebuilding helped Costain Group exceed even the City's best estimates in 1984. Profit doubled from £46.4 million to £139.5 million with construction accounting for less than half the total for the first time ever. The market had been expecting a profit of about £50 million.

The group's shares climbed 14p to 390p as the market set the group a target of £58 to £60 million for the current year.

The 1984 profit was earned on turnover up from £723 million to £946 million — two thirds of which came from the overseas companies. The trans-

lation of overseas profits into sterling earned the group £4 million at the profit level. The dividend is going up from 13.5p to 15p.

Mr Terrell Wyatt, the chairman, said that the current year was going well. He sees strong potential for further growth but would not be drawn beyond saying that if the rest of the year reflected the group's experience in the first few months, he would expect an increase in turnover and profit.

This year the group's recent acquisitions will be contributing fully. They made a contribution to last year, but "were not really significant in relation to the whole".

The group is taking a breather after its clutch of takeovers last year. While Mr Wyatt would not ignore an opportunity if it arose, he indicated that the board intended to build up the newly-acquired companies this year.

Mining profits were steady at £12.1 million against £11.9 million, as a profitable phosphate mining operation in Jordan came to an end.

Contracting profit rose from £25.7 million to £26.1 million and the workload this year is up at £1.1 billion. The property activities increased their profits from £7.3 million to £11.3 million, thanks partly to the Australian division which has a big office development in Sydney.

The fastest growing division was housing, which managed 1,400 completions last year against 700 in 1983 and only 400 a year earlier. The division boosted its profits from £1.4 million to £4.7 million with actual sales going up from 612 homes to 1,330 homes in the year. The margin was up, too, from 1.4 per cent to 4.4 per cent.

Mr Wyatt is looking for another big rise in completions this year. "We are gaining market share and moving up towards 2,000," he said. The group's joint venture with Hoppel Construction is pulling in work, but the board is not expecting to make any money there for at least two years.



Terrell Wyatt

## Brokers get ready for British Aerospace lift-off

### THE MARKETS

Selective buying of leading shares yesterday by the various City institutions virtually guaranteed overwhelming success for the sale of the Government's stake in British Aerospace on Friday.

As the equity market shrugged off the effects of the hang-over remaining from Tuesday's money supply and bank lending figures, dealers began to talk more and more confidently about the chances of over 10-times subscription for the partly-paid offer for sale of nearly 147 million shares in BAE.

In the market, British Aerospace dipped initially to 405p, but finally rebounded to 410p and net gain of 5p on the day.

Other top industrials overcame a cautious start once the institutions began to nibble and gains of around 5p were in a comfortable majority at the close. Vickers again took the honours, hoping that Bellanca Financial Services would not rest on its 5.54 per cent stake. The shares advanced another 12p to 306p. And there were a number of other good features around the market as the punters continued to back their fancies as to the next likely take-over target.

In the supermarket, Hillards spurred 35p to 405p (after 408p) on the conviction that a bid is in the offing. Market rumours suggested that either Dee Corporation or Argill Group could be preparing an offer.

Timber shares were marked up a few pence on learning that John Carr (Doncaster) was engaged in talks which could result in an agreed offer. Carr jumped 15p to 86p as the market put Rugby Cement at the top of its short list of possible suitors.

Revived talk of an imminent offer from Heron Corporation saw Burnham up 12p to 255p. Elsewhere, Costain gained 14p to 390p as 17pc profits expansion for the year exceeded market expectations.

Gold picked up a dollar or two despite an easier metal price. The indication of 21pc growth in M3 money supply last month continued to weigh heavily on gilts. They ended with losses to a full point as the days of cheaper money faded further into the distance.

Leading internationalists to improve included British Telecom, which rose 21p to a new high of 153p, 10c at 749p, up 5p and BTR 719p, up 7p. Marks and Spencer added 6p to 185p on their expansion plans, while comment on Tuesday's results also helped British Home, 3p better at 269p. Debenhams, reporting today, hardened 2p to 287p.

Revived takeover hopes lifted Brammer 5p to 320p, but profit-taking snipped 2p from Concentric at 17p. Westland on 3p to 147p awaiting bid developments. Recovery pro-

pects supported Johnson Matthey at 91p, up 3p.

Thorn-EMI reversed an early loss to close 3p up at 443p. Silenight added a penny to 38p. In spite of the 57 per cent profits setback, Breweries enjoyed demand ahead of the dividend season, with Bass up 5p to 542p. Newcastle were an exceptional dull spot at 399p, down 15p.

London Park Hotel at 381p, Barr and Wallace A 101p, Vauxhall 500p and Llandudno 43p gained 3p to 50p, after satisfactory trading news. Tyne Tees TV A dropped 15p to 110p on further reaction to Tuesday's near-50pc setback, but LWT were wanted at 240p, up 10p.

Recruits rallied 10p to 508p and Car Price attracted fresh interest at 465p, up 15p. Eury Ferries ended unchanged at 145p (after 147p) following slightly disappointing figures. Milford Docks improved 3p to 77p and Penland were hoisted 35p to 755p.

US quotation for subsidiary Reebok. Access Satellite continued to suffer from recent cautious comment down 4p to 285p, but recent comment prompted another 5p rise in Rolfe and Noland at 135p.

INTASUN Leisure Group, the package holiday charter firm headed by Sir Harry Goodman, is expected to announce details of a further move into the hotels business today. Stock market pundits believe the group may be about to add to its currently modest presence in the booming London hotel market. Intasun recently paid £7.1 million for London's Barbican City Hotel and is considering two hotels in Majorca as part of the takeover of the Global holidays business. Intasun shares rose 1p to 121p.

Instem gained 5p to 375p after the agm and Miles 33 were marked up 10p to 360p on the 50 per cent earnings expansion. Discount houses were dull on interest rate worries. Union lost 10p to 705p. Royal Insurance improved 4p to 590p in anticipation of today's first-quarter figures.

Dealers are looking for pre-tax profits of around £25 million, against a loss for the previous year. Banks were mixed, but properties attracted a good two-way business on increasing rental values. Danjaev were among the best at 485p, up 10p.

Two newcomers made successful debuts: American Electronic Components (formerly American Oil Field Systems) began life at 254p, a premium of 51p. Claydon Properties

registered a plus of 3p at 173p.

Oil improved with Kefeton up 2p to 106p as Colombia geographical studies were completed. Outsider Highland Park participants did well at 285p, up 25p. Firmer less bad Williams, up 15p to 308p. Gold gained \$1 to \$2.

Main changes: J. Carr 80p up 15p, Costain 390p up 14p, BAE 410p up 5p, Vickers 306p up 12p, Hillards 405p up 35p, Burnham 255p up 12p, ST 153p up 21p, Tyne Tees TV 110p down 15p, Penland 755p up 35p.

Equity turnover for May 1985 was: Number of bargains 22,064, value £361,603 million. Paris: closed.

Frankfurt: Prices of shares closed mixed with only minor price moves in slow trading. Commerzbank Index ended 147.4 points to stand at 1240.4. While brokers said the basic mood of the market continued to be optimistic after prices reached all-time highs or three-day some troubling factors restrained investors.

Tokyo: Stocks were mixed in moderate trading as an early buying spree faded. Pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical shares advanced most. Other sectors weakened. One dealer noted renewed interest in some electrical issues. Nikkei Dow Jones index: 12,531.20 (12,508.30).

Hong Kong: The Hang Seng rose sharply, breaking through the 1,800-level on strong local buying. Volume was unusually heavy. Overseas-based institutions, took profits or shifted funds from second-hand and third-tier issues into blue-chip shares without increasing holdings, a broker said. Trademans and participants are around hugely bullish and predict the next resistance level will be at the 1,850-mark. Hang Seng index: 1,821.45 (1,828.25).

Money markets: Period rates had another quiet day, showing little change from their closing levels yesterday. The only movements came early on in the short end as rates found their equilibrium again following yesterday's poor money supply figures. These are seen merely as a temporary holdup on monetary mature consideration, with no indications that base rates will be pushed higher again.

FT Ordinary Share Index up 2.7 at 987.5. FT-SE 100 Index up 2.4 at 1307.5. Pound: \$1.2047, DM 3.56, Fr 11.76. Gold: \$313.50. Account April 25 to May 10: FT All Share Index up 4.50 at 629.84. Sterling Index 71.5 (1975=100). RPI: 364.1 (March) up 6.1 per cent on year.

COMMODITIES

Copper: Cash £1,335 per tonne, three months £1,345 per tonne, three months \$1,945 per tonne, three months \$1,955 per tonne, three months \$1,965 per tonne, three months \$1,975 per tonne, three months \$1,985 per tonne, three months \$1,995 per tonne, three months \$2,005 per tonne, three months \$2,015 per tonne, three months \$2,025 per tonne, three months \$2,035 per tonne, three months \$2,045 per tonne, three months \$2,055 per tonne, three months \$2,065 per tonne, three months \$2,075 per tonne, three months \$2,085 per tonne, three months \$2,095 per tonne, three months \$2,105 per tonne, three months \$2,115 per tonne, three months \$2,125 per tonne, three months \$2,135 per tonne, three months \$2,145 per tonne, three months \$2,155 per tonne, three months \$2,165 per tonne, three months \$2,175 per tonne, three months \$2,185 per tonne, three months \$2,195 per tonne, three months \$2,205 per tonne, three months \$2,215 per tonne, three months \$2,225 per tonne, three 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# Some degree of doubt

John Walker and Glenn Davies of Oxford Economic Forecasting analyse the recent UK performance and prospects for 1985-6 against a background of the Bonn economic summit which failed to discuss the problems arising from the coming slowdown in the US

DESPITE the coal strike 1984 turned out to be a relatively good year for the UK economy. Output rose by 2.1 per cent and the miners' strike did not occur. It would have risen by over 3 per cent. Most forecasters, ourselves included, are expecting a high rate of growth again this year. As well as the bounce back from the strike, export prospects look good and company sector capital expenditure should remain buoyant. The problems come in 1986. Growth in world economy is likely to slow and this will limit growth in the UK.

The world recovery which began in 1983 continued in 1984, but it has not been spread evenly across countries. In the US fiscal policies have been lax and domestic demand has expanded at a breakneck pace. Japan has benefited significantly from the rapid growth in the US but Europe has done less well partly because of industrial disputes.

High growth in the US combined with more moderate growth elsewhere dramatically worsened the US trade position. Last year the current account deficit in the US rose to over \$100 billion. In normal circumstances the dollar might have been expected to depreciate as the current account deteriorated. In the event the dollar maintained its upward momentum because the current account deficit has been offset by capital inflows.

Economists have been hard pushed to explain the strength of the dollar. High growth rates in the US made it an attractive place to invest. And many expect that interest rates will remain high: the rapid expansion in the US has been fuelled by a large federal deficit—some \$218 billion last year—and the servicing of this deficit is likely to prevent any long term fall in interest rates.

But the possibilities of speculative gains from the rising dollar have also played a significant role.

Although it is clear that the US cannot continue to trade a rising budget and trade deficit in the long run, how they will be corrected.

Proposals to make large scale spending cuts or to raise taxes are being resisted. Anyway they will, at least in the short term, reduce output. Recent volatility in the currency markets suggest that the dollar's bubble may be about to burst—the dollar has fallen by about 10 per cent against the German mark since the middle of March. But there is no certainty in exchange markets.

If the budget and trade imbalances are mainly cured through a package of spending cuts and tax increases in the US, then 1986 and 1987 could see a world wide recession. On the other hand the implications of an associated fall in the dollar are less obvious. A weaker dollar increases US competitiveness

deficit in the US was reduced. The Bonn summit failed even to address these issues. The European leaders reaffirmed their commitment to reduce public deficits and lower inflation. In the short term, European growth will, therefore, remain low.

The significance of this world slowdown will not be visible as far as the UK economy is concerned until 1986. In fact, we expect that output will grow by 3 per cent this year, well above the average of the last few years. The ending of the coal strike will lead to a reduction in coal and oil imports and higher consumer spending as miners return to work.

Besides the bounce back from the miners' strike two elements of demand will

this year manufacturing investment will remain below its 1979 peak.

In 1986 these factors will unwind. Export growth will falter as world demand falls back and if the pound continues to strengthen this year competitiveness will deteriorate once more. The investment cycle is also likely to be past its peak. High interest rates and the reduction in investment allowances will also lead to some weakening of investment.

The one element of expenditure which will continue to grow is consumption. The rate of inflation, which is likely to peak at 3 per cent in the spring should fall back next year to under 5 per cent. With earnings increases showing few signs of slowing down real income growth and hence consumers' expenditure should remain buoyant. The rise in income and spending will be reinforced by income tax cuts which we expect the Chancellor to announce in his next budget.

While for those in work real living standards will continue to improve there are few signs of any improvement in unemployment. Latest figures show that the number of registered jobless continues its relentless upward trend. Even after allowing for the expansion of the Youth Training Scheme and the Community Programme announced in the Budget we think it unlikely that unemployment will fall significantly.

Abstracting from the unemployment problem the overall performance of the UK economy over the next couple of years will be relatively good. The slowdown in growth in 1986 and 1987 is part of the normal (and perhaps unavoidable) business cycle. And in comparison with the 1970s this new "recession" will be mild, inflation will remain low and real incomes will grow.

Further details of the UK forecast including projections to 1989 are in OEF's latest quarterly report. Annual subscription £85. Available from Oxford Economic Forecasting, 70, College, Kensington, London, W8 7AH.

GDP and its components	1983	1984	1985	1986
Real GDP*	3.0	2.5	2.9	1.8
Consumers' Expenditure	4.0	1.5	2.3	3.5
Investment:				
Public	12.5	3.7	-12.7	-0.8
Private	0.9	3.0	6.8	2.7
Exports of Goods and Services	1.4	6.8	7.3	1.3
Imports of Goods and Services	5.5	8.8	5.4	4.6
UK Unemployment ('000 excluding school leavers, end year)	2,942	3,103	3,120	3,145
Current account (£ mn)	2,543	81	2,850	-1,445
Retail Price Index (average annual % increase)	4.5	5.0	5.7	4.3
* Average estimate				

and hence reduces exports into the US. This would lower output growth most notably in Japan, but also in Europe. However, it could be offset by a corresponding rise in US production. There will also be benefits to be had if Europe uncouples its interest rates from the US as the dollar falls.

On balance, Oxford Economic Forecasting believes that there will be a significant slowdown in world growth over the next two years. One way this could be ameliorated would be by the European governments following more expansionary policies. Output growth could be sustained if the European authorities allowed their budget deficits to rise as the

keep the UK recovery going in 1985. First, world trade continues to rise rapidly and this has brought sizeable increases in exports. Prospects have also been helped by the gains in competitiveness made last year as a result of the fall in the exchange rate. Second, companies' capital expenditure should remain strong. A feature of the recovery has been a marked improvement in profitability, which has boosted investment.

Furthermore, many companies are bringing forward their investment plans to take advantage of the present system of investment allowances. However, despite a rise of 13 per cent in 1984 and a further 9 per cent rise



## Tax cuts could help jobless

MOST commentators do not expect unemployment to fall significantly from present levels. As the next general election approaches pressure will mount for the Government to do something.

One of the Chancellor's favoured measures to stimulate growth and employment is a reduction in income taxes. But he has felt that the room for manoeuvre is constrained by his public sector borrowing targets. It was hoped that lower borrowing would allow the Government to keep to its monetary targets and cut interest rates. These lower interest rates would directly stimulate investment and growth.

Over the last year, the problems with the exchange rate have demonstrated that interest rates have another role — the defence of sterling. As a result the Chancellor has been forced to raise rates and maintain a low borrowing requirement and high interest rates. He now has low public borrowing to bring

down interest rates but high interest rates to defend the pound.

Clearly unhappy with the situation, he has toyed with the idea of cutting taxes but keeping interest rates high in order to control the money supply (and inflation).

Even some monetarist economists have argued that fiscal policy can to some extent be divorced from monetary policy (see for example the latest issue of the Oxford Review of Economic Policy). They argue that controlling the money supply does not necessarily preclude tax cuts. So far Mr Lawson has resisted the temptation to make such a change, clearly worried about the possible effects on confidence in the exchange markets.

However, the situation may alter especially if unemployment continues to rise. Oxford Economic Forecasting has, therefore, looked at the consequences of a cut in taxes combined with various

sorts of restrictions on growth in the money supply.

In the first example we used our model of the UK economy to examine the effects of a cut in income tax of 2p in the pound (this would cost the exchequer about £2 billion per annum). At the same time we raised interest rates so that the original monetary targets were met. The tax cut raised output directly (by pushing up people's disposable incomes and consumer spending). The rise in interest rates pushed up the exchange rate by attracting capital from abroad but the adverse effects of higher interest rates on output do not fully offset the higher output resulting from the tax cut.

However, the higher exchange rate and slightly lower earnings increases (encouraged by the cut in income taxes) led to a fall in the rate of inflation and a fall in nominal GDP. Thus even with strict adherence to the monetary targets, the model suggests a fiscal stim-

ulus would (at least for the first four years) raise output and lower prices.

The assumption of a fixed monetary target may, however, be too stringent. For example, it could be argued that if real output is higher then the monetary target should be relaxed a little (especially with lower inflation). Alternatively, some might argue that a higher monetary target could be justified in order to prevent the fall in nominal income which occurs in this first simulation.

In the second simulation, therefore, it is assumed that the monetary target is maintained in the first year in part to demonstrate to the markets that the inflation targets are not being ignored. But in subsequent years a modest increase is allowed to keep nominal income on track. As can be seen this leads to a smaller fall in nominal GDP, and an even higher level of outputs and employment, especially in later years.

## Is there a factual basis for monetarism?

SHOULD fiscal policy be used to create jobs? How well has the medium term financial strategy worked in practice? What, in any case, is the theoretical and empirical basis of the government's monetary and fiscal strategy. These are some of the questions considered in the first issue of the Oxford Review of Economic Policy, published today by Oxford University Press.

The journal is designed to bridge the gap between ac-

ademic economics and policy-makers. The editor, Christopher Allsopp, examines the intellectual basis for the medium term financial strategy which he says is "apparently unfounded either in relevant theory or empirical evidence" and he argues that it is potentially destabilising if the economy is subject to certain shocks.

Professor David Laidler of the University of Western Ontario reviews recent monetary policy. He notes some of the benefits, particularly the progress in reducing infla-

tion, but admits that few monetarists expected the deep and prolonged recession that occurred.

Professor David Hendry explains his methods of monetary research. For example he looks at the inadequate empirical support of Milton Friedman's monetary theory. Hendry goes on to show that a stable demand for money can be shown, which is generally regarded as a central tenet of monetarism. Nevertheless, he makes clear that it is "standard blunder" to draw the conclusion

from this that "money causes inflation."

How to measure the budget deficit in times of inflation is considered by Professor Marcus Miller of Warwick University. His estimates of the underlying position of the public sector suggest a very tight fiscal policy—he shows in fact that there was a surplus of about 4 per cent of GDP in recent years. Professor Benjamin Friedman of Harvard questions this and indicates that issue of government investment may actually encourage investment.

## SPORTS GUARDIAN

### SOCER

Grahame Lloyd

### Welsh FA opt for Arms Park

Wales's crucial World Cup qualifying match against Scotland in September will be played at the home of Welsh rugby, Cardiff Arms Park.

At a meeting in Birmingham yesterday the Football Association of Wales's council rejected the increasingly popular idea of using the Racecourse Ground in Wrexham, where Welsh have helped sweep aside Spain last Tuesday. Officials will approach the Welsh Rugby Union in the next week to request formally use of the ground on Wednesday September 11.

In choosing the capital, the council have ignored the frequently-stated preference of the national team's manager, Mike England and his players for Wrexham's compact and homely ground in order to make a substantial financial killing.

The Welsh FA secretary, Alan Evans, declined to reveal how the 24 councillors voted, but admitted the decision was made after a lengthy discussion. "Whichever ground we chose, we would have disappointed somebody," he said. "But if the crowd turn up to support Wales, it doesn't matter where we play."

There is now talk of making an extra £250,000 by staging the game at the Arms Park because more than half of the 64,000 capacity is made up of seats. There are at present no plans to restrict the number of tickets for Scottish fans although perimeter fencing will have to be erected and the likely kick-off time will be 5.30 because the stadium has no floodlights.

The last time Wales played Scotland on unfamiliar territory in a World Cup qualifying match was at Anfield in 1977 when they lost 2-0 and Scotland went on to the finals in Argentina.

If the WRU agree to lend the Arms Park, it will not be the first time the rounder ball has been played on the sacred turf. Between 1891 and the opening of Cardiff City's Ninian Park stadium in 1910, about a dozen games were staged there. The first in 1896 saw Wales — including the legendary toothpick-chewer Billy Meredith — beaten 9-1 by England.



TRIPLE NATIONAL: Parisi, born in Italy, represented Britain and France

Benjamin Raphael on the retirement of a brilliant heavyweight

### Parisi, hulking hero

#### JUDO

WE called him "the Hulk." When Angelo Parisi first arrived at the Budokwai Judo Club in Chelsea in 1968 he was only 15 years old, but he already weighed 16 stone and what he did to a T-shirt would have made Superman spit.

In 1971 we launched him on the European Championships and he was a member of the only British team to win the title in the last 25 years. He sat on the edge of the mat reading comics before defeating a Russian who had been European champion before Parisi had even taken up the sport.

When the 1985 European Championships begin today at Hamar, Norway, there will be an immense void. Parisi has finally hung up his black belt, having collected 10 titles in these annual championships and won twice as many Olympic medals as anyone else in the sport. He has changed his nationality from Italian to British to French.

Although his weight grew to 18 stone, partly because of his fondness for ice cream, Parisi is remembered

for the unique range and penetration of techniques rather than strength. Together with Neil Adams, who defends his light-middle-weight title tomorrow, Parisi has entrances crowds with his versatile skills as no other European fighter has done in the last decade.

Most judo heavyweights trudge round the mat like well-intentioned dinosaurs. Parisi moves like a panther. A twitch here, a sway of the hips there, a quick feint and suddenly his 20-stone opponent would be catapulted over Parisi's shoulder. A British team-mate, John Hindley, recalls: "After Angelo has finished with them they were right hospital cases."

Parisi had a rare gift of being able to throw opponents either left or right-handed, which in boxing would be like possessing a knockout punch in either hand. It made defence against him extremely hazardous.

In the 1980 European Championships he scored the decisive throw, a left-handed throw. Three months later at the Olympics he switched grips and hurled the same opponent to the mat with a move which has

become as famous in judo as Stanley Matthews's dribble and centre in the 1963 FA Cup final has in football. Parisi went on to take the gold medal.

By this time he was French, having married a girl from Avignon, but he was always the first to acknowledge that it was his training at the Budokwai which had given him his finest skill. Between 1968-74 he was a member of a squad nicknamed Rentahooligan Limited, from whom he acquired many of his moves. Brian Jacks was an influence and they shared the ability to mine a new seam of talent in major events.

He was idolised in France, where there is little boxing and judo has won the following of people fascinated by the rawness of combat sport. "Debout, debout!" ("Get up, get up!"), the crowd used to shout as Parisi grappled on the mat to attempt an arm-lock, a strangle or hold-down. They did not want to be deprived of a spectacular throw. Parisi usually obliged, often in the closing seconds of a contest.

Judo demands both the correct application of skill and utter self-control. Parisi was the epitome of these requirements.

Charles Edwards in Dublin

### Irish arm against any loss of face

#### RUGBY UNION

"I hope the Japanese players won't publicly disembowel themselves when we win all five matches," remarked a typical member of the Ireland rugby squad after a recent training session.

The squad leaves Dublin on Monday for a three-week tour to Japan, Ireland's first visit there and their first venture overseas since a trip to South Africa in 1981.

Whatever the current Japanese reaction to defeat, a distinctly ceremonial tone seems to have been introduced into Irish rugby by the Triple Crown and championship success that amounts to a citation in a recent press release from the Bank of Ireland is a yardstick.

The bank this week staged a reception in honour of the national team and gushed "thank you for bringing three months of heart-stopping happiness to many thousands of Irish sports-lovers, and for restoring to the Irish People a sense of pride and unity."

Which is all very true, of course, even if the sentiment is a bit remote from the nonsense, stiff upper lip stance of the average Irish rugby man. But the IRFU in any event are taking the Japanese tour very seriously, and are sending out the strongest squad possible, even though no caps are being awarded for the international games.

In fact the availability to travel of every single player selected must surely constitute some sort of record. Touring teams, for one reason or another, are invariably deprived of some of the original choices but Ireland tour with the 21-man squad which was on duty all through the championship, and five extra players, one of whom — the utility back Moss Finn — is an experienced international player.

Four years between overseas tours is too long in the opinion of the coach, Mick Doyle, who

sees the present exercise as a useful preparation for next season's domestic campaign.

Ireland have hardly been to the forefront in touring terms, but all the same their record in recent years has improved, and now is far better than that of Wales. The Welsh, who are said to get homesick a few miles west of Cardiff, have journeyed abroad less frequently than anyone else, and seem not to travel well.

As an emergent rugby nation it seems unlikely that the Japanese will be able to lower Ireland's colours. All the same, Doyle is not taking them lightly, or dismissing their chances; he is well aware of their fine performance in the Arms Park two years ago when the supremely talented XV got the fright of their lives, and just held out to win by five points.

An Irish defeat would be a serious blow for the morale for a side whose national standing is very high after the success of last season, and Doyle and the players are taking every precaution. There was an intensive training session last Saturday and there will be two more this weekend.

Ireland's itinerary includes two tests against the Japanese national side in Osaka and Tokyo. The team, naturally, will be captained by Claran Fitzgerald, and the manager is Des McIlbin who won eight caps in 1980 and '81. The ebullient Doyle is the coach and assistant manager.



FINN: Squad reinforcement

John Samuel

### Swiss clamp down

#### SKIING

The Swiss Ski Federation yesterday took strong action against rebel skiers attending a recent meeting at which the plans were revealed for the breakaway pro circuit from the semi-professional World Cup.

Daniel Maher, Conradin Cathomen and Bruno Kernon, downhill winners in recent seasons, were all dropped from the 1985-86 Swiss team announced yesterday. They have until the end of the month to say in writing that they will not compete in the rival World Sports Association circuit launched by the German impresario Lothar Beck. Then, says the Swiss, they may reconsider.

It is a very stern action. Grafrons Kasper, the FIS (International Ski Federation) director general, said yesterday. He said that Beck and his associates were offering 10 million dollars in setting up a programme of eleven downhill

conflicting with the World Cup programme.

We knew they were going to do this and contacted each of the resorts to ask if they were prepared to do so and they all said no," said Mr Kasper. "They had most of the plans were revealed for the breakaway pro circuit from the semi-professional World Cup. There were the older ones, Klammer, Weisbacher and Stock, but also Resch and Hoeslechner. Wildgruber and Wenzel were also there, but some of them said they just went to listen. It was important for us that Zurbriggen and Mueller were not there."

Clearly the FIS are rattled. Serge Lang, the World Cup committee chairman, is bound to pursue moves to further professionalise the World Cup with an extension of advertising on racers' equipment. While the major US networks may not be interested, the cable companies are a different proposition. Once a pro circuit goes on US television sponsorship opportunities could follow.

#### GOLF

Laura Davies and Penny Grice, the two youngsters who were contentious selections for last year's Curtis Cup team, shared the lead yesterday on five-under-par 69 after the first round of the Hennessy Ladies' Cup at St Cloud, Paris.

Both were one shot ahead of the French amateur Marie-Laure Taya and two in front of Jan Stephenson, who had lost her yardage chart and was left to guess the distances to the flags.

Being a stickler for preparation, she complained after the round that her playing partners had not offered to share their yardage charts — "they would" have done in the States," but, in fairness, she never asked for help. She said she was going out to rescue the course at the end of her long and tiring day.

The scoring system at St Cloud left everyone in some

confusion as to who was leading whom for most of the day. When the 21-year-old Davies reached the 15th she saw Sue Bamford leading on 69 and thought they would be tied; a little later the 20-year-old Grice saw Bamford five over par as the leading score and imagined she was 10 shots ahead of the field.

Davies, a long hitter, was under-clubbing for much of the day in a swirling wind, but her consistency was admirable and she missed only two greens. She dropped a shot from a bunker at the second but picked up more birdies and an eagle at the par-five 44th-45th when she drove into the rough, but hit a tremendous six iron to 20 feet and sloped in the putt.

Davies, from West Byfleet, worked for a bookmaker during the winter to earn some money and then became part of the IBM-sponsored team on turning professional this year. Grice, from Sheffield, who had the best 1984 Curtis Cup

record with 21 points, spent the winter in an unsuccessful search for sponsorship and finally took out a £2,000 overdraft, of which £1,000 had gone after only two weeks as a professional.

I haven't anything except my golf," she said after a remarkably round which included seven birdies, five of them in exciting succession from the 13th. She hit a four iron to eight feet, a sand wedge to 10 feet, was on in two at the long par five, nearly reached the green on the next hole of 284 yards and came out of a bunker to seven feet for a birdie at the 17th.

Stephenson holed a wedge shot for an eagle at the fourth — "about eighty yards," I think she quipped — and managed two birdies and two bogies in her 71, afterwards saying that she had putted badly, got a bit tired and lost concentration.

Vanessa Marvin had a fine opening round of 72, two under par.















BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

WALSH — Mr Henry Bradford Alan Walsh, 61, of 10, St. John's Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, died on May 7, 1985, at the age of 61.

DEATHS

BAILEY — Mr DONALD COLEMAN, 68, of 10, St. John's Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, died on May 7, 1985, at the age of 68.

LECTURES & MEETINGS

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**The Annual General Meeting**

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Monday, May 27, 1985  
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**AGENDA**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 1984.  
Report of the Chairman.  
Report of the Treasurer.  
Report of the Secretary.  
Report of the Committee.  
Report of the Auditors.  
Resolution of the Chairman.  
Resolution of the Treasurer.  
Resolution of the Secretary.  
Resolution of the Committee.  
Resolution of the Auditors.  
Resolution of the Chairman.  
Resolution of the Treasurer.  
Resolution of the Secretary.  
Resolution of the Committee.  
Resolution of the Auditors.

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**POETRY AND COMMITMENT**

Friday, May 10, 1985, 7.30 p.m.  
at the University of Manchester,  
Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL.

**THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF MANCHESTER**

Friday, May 10, 1985, 7.30 p.m.  
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